United Nations S/PV.5803

Security Council

Sixty-second year

Provisional

5803rd meeting

Friday, 14 December 2007, 10.15 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Mantovani	(Italy)
Members:	Belgium	Mr. Belle
	China	Mr. Liu Zhenmin
	Congo	Mr. Okio
	France	Mr. Lacroix
	Ghana	Mr. Christian
	Indonesia	Mr. Kleib
	Panama	Mr. Soler Torrijos
	Peru	Mr. Voto-Bernales
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Qahtani
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Slovakia	Mr. Burian
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir John Sawers
	United States of America	Mr. DeLaurentis

Agenda

The situation in Cyprus

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Cyprus (S/2007/699)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

07-64469 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Cyprus

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus (S/2007/699)

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus, document S/2007/699. Members of the Council also have before them document S/2007/732, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it.

I should like to inform the Council that the presidency of the Council has met with the representatives of the parties, who have confirmed that they maintain their well-known positions vis-à-vis the item on the Council's agenda. On the basis of those meetings, with the consent of the members of the Council, the presidency has drawn the conclusion that the Council can proceed to take a decision on the draft resolution before it. If I hear no objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Belgium, China, Congo, France, Ghana, Indonesia, Italy, Panama, Peru, Qatar, Russian Federation, Slovakia, South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1789 (2007).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 10.20 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.5804

Security Council

Sixty-second year

Provisional

5804th meeting

Friday, 14 December 2007, 3 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Spatafora	(Italy)
Members:	Belgium	Mr. Belle
	China	Mr. Du Xiacong
	Congo	Mr. Okio
	France	Mr. De Rivière
	Ghana	Mr. Christian
	Indonesia	Mr. Kleib
	Panama	Mr. Suescum
	Peru	Mr. Pérez
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Qahtani
	Russian Federation	Mr. Kravchenko
	Slovakia	Mr. Brada
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. Pierce
	United States of America	Mr. Reneau

Agenda

The situation in Sierra Leone

Fifth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (S/2007/704)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

07-64475 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Sierra Leone

Fifth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (S/2007/704)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of the Netherlands and Sierra Leone, in which they request to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Majoor (Netherlands) and Mr. Rowe (Sierra Leone) took seats at the Council table.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations. Members of the Council have before them document S/2007/704, which contains the fifth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone.

At this meeting, the Council will hear a briefing by His Excellency Mr. Frank Majoor, Permanent Representative of the Netherlands and Chairman of the Sierra Leone country-specific configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission. I now give the floor to Ambassador Majoor.

Mr. Majoor (Netherlands): I very much welcome this opportunity to participate in the Council's meeting on Sierra Leone in my capacity as Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission's country-specific meetings on Sierra Leone. My last statement in that capacity before the Security Council dates back to 17 October, when I participated in the Council's debate on the Peacebuilding Commission (see S/PV.5761). On that occasion, I briefed the Council on my recent visit to Sierra Leone and the discussions with the newly elected Government of Sierra Leone on the draft peacebuilding cooperation framework.

Today I would like to brief the Council on a key development since then. On 12 December — only two days ago — at a formal Peacebuilding Commission meeting attended by Her Excellency Zainab Bangura, Foreign Minister of Sierra Leone, the Peacebuilding Commission and the Government of Sierra Leone adopted the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework. The Framework will guide the work of the Commission and the Government of Sierra Leone over the next three years and will address the challenges and threats most critical to sustaining and consolidating peace in Sierra Leone.

The Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework was developed through an intensive consultative process over the last several months involving all major stakeholders both here in New York and in Freetown. It contains commitments on the part of the Government of Sierra Leone and the Peacebuilding Commission in the areas of good governance, security and justice sector reform, youth employment and empowerment, energy sector development and capacity-building. In addition, it addresses subregional dimensions of peacebuilding and the cross-cutting issue of gender equality. The Commission will use the Framework to enhance dialogue and strengthen partnerships between Sierra Leone and its international partners and to mobilize additional resources needed for peace consolidation efforts.

The development of this Cooperation Framework and its adoption represent another major milestone in Sierra Leone's journey from conflict to peace, stability and prosperity. Despite the significant progress in peace consolidation in Sierra Leone, many of the root causes of conflict still need to be addressed. Additional efforts are also needed to reconcile the country, reform governance institutions and address the dire socio-economic conditions of the people.

The primary responsibility to address these challenges rests with the people and the Government of Sierra Leone. At the same time, it is equally important to acknowledge that the international community, including the United Nations, should remain engaged in the country and continue to support national efforts for peacebuilding and recovery. The Peacebuilding

Commission was created specifically to ensure sustained engagement and support by the international community for countries recovering from conflict. The Framework adopted the day before yesterday will ensure Sierra Leone's cooperation with the Peacebuilding Commission and the commitment of all stakeholders in the Commission, on the basis of national ownership, mutual accountability and sustained engagement.

By encouraging implementation of the commitments contained in the Framework, the Peacebuilding Commission can play, and will play, a critical role in support of the new Government and in meeting the high expectations of the people of Sierra Leone.

In this regard, I would welcome continued support from the Security Council in ensuring constructive engagement of all stakeholders in the work of the Peacebuilding Commission. I also use this opportunity to call on all stakeholders to live up to the commitments made through the Cooperation Framework by considering and offering additional and concrete support to address the identified priorities.

With the Framework in hand, we now have the opportunity to provide focused support to a country that has emerged from conflict but that is still struggling to address those factors that could trigger a relapse into conflict, in spite of the good progress that has been made in many areas. In other words, we now have the opportunity to do what the Peacebuilding Commission was created for.

Finally, I would like to request that, in extending the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone, the Security Council mandate the Office to continue to support the work of the Peacebuilding Commission and the implementation of the newly adopted Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework.

The President: I thank Ambassador Majoor for his briefing.

In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I should now like to invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 3.20 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.5805

Security Council

Sixty-second year

Provisional

5805th meeting

Monday, 17 December 2007, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Spatafora	(Italy)
Members:	Belgium	Mr. Verbeke
	China	Mr. Liu Zhenmin
	Congo	Mr. Okio
	France	Mr. Lacroix
	Ghana	Mr. Christian
	Indonesia	Mr. Kleib
	Panama	Mr. Suescum
	Peru	Mr. Voto-Bernales
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Nasser
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Slovakia	Mr. Burian
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir John Sawers
	United States of America	Ms. Wolcott

Agenda

The situation in Somalia

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07-64634 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Minute of silence for the victims of the bombings in Algiers

The President: At the outset of this meeting, I would like to invite all members of the Council to observe a minute of silence for all of the victims of the bombings in Algiers on 11 December 2007. The victims of the bombings included 17 United Nations staff members and a large number of Algerian nationals and nationals of other countries. On behalf of the Council, I would like to express profound sympathy and sincere condolences to all of the victims of this devastating tragedy, to their families and to the Government of Algeria, as well as to the victims of all terrorist attacks.

The members of the Security Council observed a minute of silence.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Somalia

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Norway, Portugal and Somalia, in which they request to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Dhakkar (Somalia) took a seat at the Council table; the representatives of the other aforementioned countries took the seats reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President: In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia.

It is so decided.

I invite Mr. Ould Abdallah to take a seat at the Council table.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by Mr. Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia.

I now give him the floor.

Mr. Ould Abdallah: I would like to thank all Member States and organizations for the support I have been receiving from them in my functions, and thank them for the attention they have been giving to Somalia and the Somali people for the past 17 years.

In this connection, the United Nations and all international partner institutions and countries have made and are still making extraordinary efforts to assist Somalia under extremely harsh conditions. Many, including journalists and aid workers, have sacrificed their lives in the course of their work with little or no recognition. I would also like to thank the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). It is doing excellent work with limited resources and manpower. In addition, protecting shipments of food against high-seas piracy is new, most welcome and should be continued.

The conflict in Somalia is not, in my opinion, an African Union or a League of Arab States or an Organization of the Islamic Conference issue. It is neither a liberation struggle, nor an ethnic or religious war. It is also not just a struggle for power among the clans, as many believe. The frequently shifting allegiances between and within clans demonstrate that other factors are also responsible for the continued instability of the country.

The conflict in Somalia, which began in 1991, is a threat to peace and security. The situation is dangerous and is becoming more so each day. Somalia's youth, who make up about two thirds of the population, has only one employment opportunity — participation in a conflict that has blighted their lives. This situation has continued over the past 17 years, despite 17 agreements.

I see three possible approaches to international involvement in Somalia.

The first course of action is simply continuing the current status quo, or "business as usual". The second approach would be an organized withdrawal of the international community from Somalia, in effect accepting our inability to protect the population or to bring about a lasting peace. A third possible solution would be immediate and effective action on the political and security fronts.

The first approach is to maintain the status quo. Policies tried and implemented over the past 17 years have clearly failed to restore stability. Even worse, they may have fuelled the conflict owing to some side effects of international assistance. Aid may give the impression that it addresses the root causes of the crisis, but it does not. An increase in humanitarian assistance and improved access for agencies would be helpful but it will not put a stop to the violence. The suffering might be mitigated, but it will not be ended, as long as instability prevails. Despite millions of dollars, efforts and resources, national reconciliation continues to be elusive. The Somalis and their neighbours are frustrated by this continued war, which is generating deep resentment and cynicism.

The current military situation cannot last forever. In addition, it should not be used as an excuse for continuing business as usual. A "wait and see" attitude would only postpone the day of reckoning and would not facilitate meaningful progress towards a lasting peace. That is why we really have only two choices — either withdrawal or looking at other forms of action.

For those who believe that Somalia is one of the world's unsolvable problems, withdrawal is the only course of action. A withdrawal would provide an alternative to the costly, continued engagement in Somalia that has so far failed to bring about stability, and it may not be difficult as an operation, because there are only a very limited number of international staff in Somalia and none is based in Mogadishu.

The decision to intervene in some conflict situations while ignoring others of similar gravity would, however, have a far-reaching effect, especially in relation to public opinion, and not necessarily only in Africa. That is why I recommend the third option — taking effective action.

Taking effective action would entail new political and security initiatives. The Transitional Federal Government (TFG) would have to be more active and make greater room for neutral personalities and competent members of the opposition. I take this opportunity to appeal to the Parliament to support this orientation. The objective is to form a Government that can support itself and administer the country effectively and peacefully. The Cabinet should be as representative as possible; we will never have unanimity — if we have 60 or 70 per cent in the first phase, that will be good. That Government should be capable of defending itself and maintaining good relations with all its neighbours.

With regard to the conditions for success, as I see them, the Somalia crisis is an international problem. The United Nations should launch diplomatic action to mobilize a consensus aimed at stabilizing the country. I recommend two simultaneous actions — one on the political front, the other on the security front.

On the political front, the Government should help by taking concrete steps to unite and strengthen its own ranks as well as its relationship with the opposition. The establishment of a Government of National Unity is one of the best ways to do so. More meetings between selected members of the TFG and those of the opposition should take place so as to prepare the ground for further and higher-level meetings. No large conference or freelance mediators would be welcome. This "critical path to stabilization" should include the opposition as part of the political process and should require the opposition to assume all of its responsibilities.

These discussions should preferably be held in a location close to Somalia or in one where most observers following the situation in the country are based. Once agreement on talks is reached, the discussions should be concluded within a fixed time frame. Political leaders and, especially, members of the business community and prominent Somalis of the diaspora, should be invited to contribute. I am preparing the agenda, identifying a possible list of participants and the timing for this process. I am convinced that, when left alone, Somalis are ready to join their ranks and efforts to get their country back on its feet in the next few months.

On the security front, concurrently with the political action, AMISOM needs to remain operational and its effectiveness strengthened. A new initiative should reinforce it with the deployment of additional

capacity to stabilize our country. As time is pressing, this new peace presence has become a must. In this, Saudi Arabia — and I am mentioning Saudi Arabia because, last Ramadan, they invited Somalia for a meeting — Custodian of the two holiest sites in Islam and a close neighbour, where more than 350,000 refugees are currently living, should be invited to play a leading role. Given its successful contribution to peace in the previous conflict, Saudi Arabia can help. And why should support from one or two NATO member States not be made available, if necessary?

On the practical level, the United Nations and the Somali Government should come to a swift agreement in close consultation with other concerned countries. With the Secretary-General's support, I plan to pursue this road to peace without delay. The Security Council may wish to support these two simultaneous actions. With its blessing, a group of Somalia's partners should reinforce the security capacity and deploy a peace presence. This would bring forward national reconciliation, encourage the return of the international community to Mogadishu and beyond, and reassure neighbours with respect to their security concerns. This arrangement, sanctioned by a major international conference, should mark the complete return of Somalia to the international community.

The situation in Somalia is deteriorating daily, and it is time for the international community to commit itself to a clear course of action. If the current trends of internal violence and external neglect continue, the consequences would be catastrophic for peace in the region, for the image and reputation of the United Nations, and, above all, for the long-suffering Somali civilians.

A combination of many factors — support, pressure and effective action — would help patriotic Somalis to free themselves from the scourge of war and the ghosts of the past and to unite for a strong, independent and peaceful country. I have asked for some pictures of Somalis trying to flee their country to be circulated.

The President: I thank Mr. Ould Abdallah for his comprehensive and very interesting briefing.

I now give the floor to the representative of Somalia.

Mr. Dhakkar (Somalia): On behalf of the Permanent Representative of Somalia to the United Nations, who is not currently in New York, and in my capacity as officer-in-charge of the Mission, on behalf of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, and, indeed, on behalf of all the suffering people of Somalia, I would like again to thank the Security Council and its President for giving us an opportunity to participate in this discussion.

At the outset, I would like to welcome the position taken by our colleague Ahmedou Ould Abdallah. We would like to offer him our full support in his worthy endeavours. We wholeheartedly endorse the last position he outlined, which is the only option. The only option is for the Security Council and the United Nations system to move in the right direction — not only to move in the right direction, but to do so with speed, in order to make up for lost time. It is no secret in Somalian and other circles that many Somalis — inside Somalia, in the neighbouring countries and all over the world — wonder why it is so relatively easy for the Security Council and the United Nations system to move faster and in the right direction in other places in the world where there is or has been conflict.

Basically, we endorse the idea that the Security Council should move speedily in three directions. First, existing measures should be implemented: first of all, the deployment of African Union peacekeepers. I take this opportunity to thank profusely the African Union, the Government of Uganda and the Government of Ethiopia for helping Somalia in its hour of need.

Secondly, it should be possible, in this day and age, in the twenty-first century, for the Security Council to come up with an acceptable formula to move ahead on Somalia in the right direction in the political and security sphere. It is not in the interest of the United Nations system to find ways to delay real action on Somalia.

Thirdly, of course, wherever there is conflict, there is a humanitarian disaster, and Somalia is no exception. It pains us to see Somalia for so long the subject of the worst possible headlines. The Somali people would like to move out of this situation. Those us who know us know us as proud people. Unfortunately, since the civil war, and since 1991, when the central Government collapsed, our pride has been crudely dented, but we have faith that we will come back and regain our strength.

After all, we have one language, we have one history, we have one ethnic group and we have one

religion. In many situations where I have been in my capacity as a former senior United Nations official for 23 years and as a part-time lecturer at New York University, I have been asked, "if you have all this homogeneity, what is the problem? What are you fighting about?" In many situations, I was able to explain, in two minutes rather than in two hours, what the problem was.

So my third point, talking about directions for the Security Council, was to emphasize humanitarian assistance.

I will be brief. We fully support the position taken by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia. We fully endorse the need for the Security Council to move fast, and in the right direction — and now. We have faith in the United Nations system and in the Security Council. After all, part of Somalia was a United Nations Trust Territory, and the southern part gained independence with the help of the United Nations. There are many Somalis in the diaspora. There are many Somalis who have been in the United Nations system.

We all have faith in the United Nations system. We hope that five or ten years down the road we will still have faith in the United Nations system.

The President: I shall now give the floor to the members of the Council.

Mr. Liu Zhenmin (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): The Chinese delegation wishes to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Ould Abdallah, for his briefing. We would also like to welcome the statement made by the representative of Somalia.

China has always believed that the key to the settlement of the current crisis in Somalia is for its various factions to carry out national reconciliation, engage in constructive dialogue, reach a political understanding and commit themselves to national reconstruction. We appreciate the large amount of work done by the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia in that regard. We encourage it to continue its broad-based dialogue with various factions.

We welcome the appointment of Mr. Nur Hassan Hussein as Prime Minister of the Transitional Federal Government. We have noticed his expressed willingness to continue dialogue with various factions in Somalia. We believe that he is able to lead the Somali people in overcoming the current difficulties. At the same time, we are worried about the health situation of President Yusuf Ahmed. We hope he will be well soon.

The efforts by the Transitional Federal Government alone are far from enough for the settlement of the Somali question. We once again call on the factions of Somalia, both inside and outside the country, to take seriously the aspiration of the Somali people for peace, to put the interest of the country and nation above everything else, not to set any preconditions for dialogue, and to work constructively for national reconciliation.

The future of Somalia as a State fundamentally depends on the efforts of the Somali people themselves; however, the assistance of the international community is also indispensable. We would like to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General Ould Abdullah for his good-offices efforts since he took office. We hope that the United Nations Political Office for Somalia will be further strengthened, and we call on the international community to support Mr. Ould Abdallah and cooperate with his work.

China is deeply concerned at the security situation in Somalia. We highly appreciate the important role of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) under extremely difficult conditions for the improvement of the security situation of the country. There is an urgent need to improve AMISOM's current difficult situation. It is a top priority for the international community to provide it with financial, logistical and technical support so that it can be fully deployed as soon as possible. That is essential for the stabilization of the internal security situation in Somalia, as well as for prompting Ethiopia to withdraw from Somalia.

China consistently supports the United Nations taking over for AMISOM. We understand that the Secretariat is faced with many practical difficulties in deploying a United Nations peacekeeping operation in Somalia. However, the international community should bear in mind the urgent need of the people of Somalia. We look forward to the stepped-up efforts made by the Secretariat in formulating a contingency plan and in regular briefings of the Council in that regard.

China is seriously concerned at the humanitarian situation in Somalia. The Somali humanitarian crisis

has evolved into one of the most serious humanitarian disasters on the African continent, even exceeding the crisis in Darfur. However, compared with the great attention paid to Darfur, there has been too little input to Somalia and insufficient attention on the part of the international community. We call on the international community to donate generously to the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies, and we encourage various factions in Somalia to fully cooperate with the international relief agencies and their personnel. We also hope that the humanitarian agencies respect the sovereignty of Somalia and maintain smooth communication with the Transitional Federal Government.

Sir John Sawers (United Kingdom): I begin by thanking the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Ould Abdallah, for his briefing and also the representative of Somalia for his contribution.

Somalia remains a challenge for the Security Council and for the United Nations and the African Union as a whole. Making progress there, as today's briefing makes clear, is a long-term task and a vital one. The United Nations is uniquely placed to help address all the range of needs in Somalia: humanitarian, political, security and developmental. We warmly support Mr. Ould Abdallah's efforts to address those complex problems and to coordinate and lead an effective United Nations response. We welcome in particular his discussions with the Transitional Federal Government leadership, with the regional and international players and with a wide range of Somali stake-holders, who will have a part to play in Somalia's future.

My delegation welcomes the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator's recent visit to Somalia. Easing the humanitarian crisis should be our immediate priority. That will require continuing efforts from the United Nations, and it will take action and cooperation also by Somali actors on the ground, both Government and rebels, to ensure humanitarian access. In particular, the Transitional Federal Government should ensure that humanitarian relief can be delivered freely throughout all the areas it controls, and it should also protect those in receipt of humanitarian relief and the displaced persons who are trying to return to their homes.

On the political process, we welcome the appointment of the new Prime Minister, Mr. Nur Hassan Hussein. His appointment provides an opportunity to revitalize the political process. We look forward to him beginning work in earnest, once he has finalized the new Government cabinet. Full implementation of the conclusions of the National Reconciliation Congress will be crucial, in particular launching a constitutional process, establishing a clear, timetabled road map to elections at the end of the transitional period and advancing a full and meaningful dialogue with all actors in Somalia's political process: clan leaders and elders, religious groups, opposition groups, civil society and business. We will need to support the Special Representative's new initiatives to get this process moving forward.

On security, we welcome the Special Representative's new thinking. We support the proposal for a technical assessment mission to Somalia to help advance the contingency planning of the United Nations.

On the role of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), we believe that the United Nations should continue to support that force. The Ugandan contingent is doing a demanding job in difficult conditions. We welcome the news that Burundi hopes to deploy troops very soon, and we call on Ghana and Nigeria to honour as soon as possible their commitments to AMISOM. The United Kingdom has extended financial support to the force, including support for Burundi's deployment, and we are ready to consider further support for other countries to deploy. We hope our partners will also consider similar such backing.

Mr. Sangqu (South Africa): We welcome the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Ould Abdallah, and thank him for the sobering briefing. We also welcome the statement made by the representative of Sómalia.

Clearly, the situation in Somalia is not getting any better. It is still characterized by a grave humanitarian crisis, major political divisions, including within the Transitional Federal Government, and general insecurity in the country. We have been told that some 200,000 people have fled their homes recently as a result of increasing fighting, with the country being plunged into an unfolding disaster. The humanitarian situation remains fragile precisely because of insecurity and political divisions.

We acknowledge the necessity of humanitarian assistance so as to alleviate the suffering of the people

of Somalia. However, as the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs warned in his briefing earlier this month, "a robust humanitarian response cannot make up for the absence of desperately needed political and security progress" (*S/PV.5792, p. 6*). It is important that we continue to promote an inclusive political process and reconciliation in Somalia and seriously look into a contingency plan for possible deployment of a peacekeeping force in Somalia.

Despite the often-cited admirable work that the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) has been doing, we all know that this has gone beyond sustainability and effectiveness. The problem is not just that of resources, but also the nature of the mandate. AMISOM was deployed as a stop-gap until the United Nations can deploy.

Once again South Africa expresses the hope that the Security Council will revisit the request of the African Union for an expedited deployment to Somalia. Unfortunately, there seems to be a subtle reluctance, if not resistance, to this request. The reality is that the international community has the responsibility not to abandon the people of Somali again. The way forward, it seems to us, if we are to stop Somalia from being a constant threat to international peace and security, is to encourage and support the political process as well as to deploy a peacekeeping operation. A conducive security environment has to be created to allow the political process to proceed. We hope that the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations will accelerate the deployment of an assessment mission to Somalia so as to facilitate further United Nations engagement.

Given the seriousness of the situation, maintaining the status quo and withdrawal are not options. There can be only one option — a more focused United Nations approach to bring about security in Somalia.

Mr. Kleib (Indonesia): Let me begin by joining previous speakers in welcoming the Special Representative of the Secretary-General Mr. Ould Abdallah, and thanking him for his update on the situation in Somalia. We also thank the representative of Somalia for his statement. My delegation appreciates this opportunity to receive an in-depth update about Somalia, given that the Council must contribute to managing and resolving the 17-year-old conflict in that country — not only due to increasing humanitarian suffering but also because of the Council's responsibilities under the Charter to address threats to international peace and security.

We welcome Mr. Ould Abdallah's efforts to promote dialogue, consultations and reconciliation in the country, as well as his leading role in fostering greater unity of action by the international community. We urge him to continue with his commendable efforts for greater international awareness of the Somali issue. We note the idea of a new agenda for peace and stability in Somalia and wish to be continually updated on the development of a harmonized approach among all partners under the leadership of the United Nations.

We welcome the appointment of Mr. Nur Hassan Hussein as the new Prime Minister of Somalia. We believe that the continued divisions in Somalia, both within the transitional federal institutions and between the Transitional Federal Government and the opposition, are the main obstacles to any possible progress on the political front. It is therefore crucial that Mr. Hussein's Government strengthen all-inclusive dialogue and consultations with all Somali stakeholders, with a view to achieving unity of purpose and political direction.

Indonesia supports the two-track approach of a political track and a security or peacekeeping track as the main thrust of the Security Council's efforts. On the political track, we are of the view that the primary task for Somalis should be the completion of the tasks set in the Transitional Federal Charter. In particular, efforts should be focused on the constitutional process, preparation for the national population census and the holding of the elections scheduled for 2009. We look to the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) to support this effort and to play a leading role in channelling and coordinating all international assistance for Somalia.

On the peacekeeping track, Indonesia favours the deployment of a United Nations multidimensional peacekeeping force. At the moment, when United Nations deployment is still under thorough assessment and consideration, a greater technical, logistical and financial support for the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) is absolutely essential and urgently needed. We commend Ugandan troops on the ground for their efforts and wish to express our appreciation to Member States that have provided naval protection for shipments of humanitarian aid

against piracy and armed robbery along the coast of Somalia. We believe that a United Nations force should in time be deployed to Somalia, and we encourage the Security Council and the Secretary-General to continue to work on contingency planning.

Indonesia is in favour of the Secretary-General's intention, as stated in his report (S/2007/658), to elaborate a two-track approach for Somalia. A strengthened UNPOS should be able to support such an approach. Contingency planning for a possible United Nations peacekeeping component will need to be developed in coordination with and with the support of UNPOS and in keeping with the overall political track. Moreover, the establishment in the Secretariat of an interdepartmental and inter-agency integrated task force on Somalia is welcomed, in particular to develop a coherent peacebuilding strategy for Somalia.

The continued presence of foreign troops in Somalia has been reflected in part in the hardening stance of the opposition and the intensification of the insurgency, making any resolution even more difficult. The international community therefore must contribute to a conducive situation for the withdrawal of all foreign forces that are not part of AMISOM.

Finally, we call on all parties to respect international humanitarian law. It is unacceptable that innocent civilians continue to become the victims of this protracted conflict. We appeal once again to all those with weapons, whether Government, insurgent, or Ethiopian troops, to cease indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks affecting civilians. Ultimately, Somalia needs a political and security resolution, but in the meantime, humanitarian assistance and access must be enhanced. We call on the international community to increase their assistance to Somalia, including to the consolidated appeal for Somalia, and we call on the Somali authorities to facilitate and widen access for humanitarian assistance.

Mr. Burian (Slovakia): We too are grateful to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Ould Abdallah, for his timely briefing and complete recommendations for action by the international community in Somalia to achieve a long-lasting solution to this protracted conflict.

We are concerned about the continued deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Somalia, especially in Mogadishu, and the increasing suffering of civilians caught in the fight between the insurgents and Government forces. We believe the international community must do everything possible to ease their suffering and to provide humanitarian assistance to all those in need. The need for an international response is urgent, and all parties in Somalia must do whatever they can to ensure secure access to international humanitarian assistance.

At the same time, all parties in Somalia should be reminded that the key priority is the protection of civilians and that the abuse of international humanitarian law and human rights law is totally unacceptable. We deplore the abductions and killings of independent journalists and human rights activists in Somalia over the last year. We hope that the French journalist who was abducted just last weekend in Puntland will be freed as soon as possible.

We are also worried about reported restrictions placed by the Transitional Federal Government on the independent media, which have been reporting on the unfolding situation in the country. At the same time, we believe the humanitarian disaster in Somalia can be avoided only through national reconciliation and stabilization in the country. Slovakia believes that the National Reconciliation Congress held in Somalia earlier this year was an encouraging step in the political process, and we hope that its outcomes will be implemented expeditiously.

We welcome the recent appointment of the new Government of Somalia under the leadership of Prime Minister Nur Hassan Hussein. We share the view of Special Representative Ould Abdallah that the President and Prime Minister need to be more active in addressing the crisis through political dialogue involving all parties, including opposition and independent personalities, in deciding the future of their country. We hope that the transitional federal institutions will now seize the momentum and move expeditiously to establish inclusive democratic institutions in Somalia, including in the area of preparing for the census and elections due in 2009.

We note the recommendations of Mr. Ould Abdallah on simultaneous actions on the political and security fronts. We hope that the international community, including the United Nations, will play a more instrumental role in assisting Somalia in its efforts to achieve peace, stability and prosperity.

Finally, we would like to reiterate the necessity of addressing the ongoing arms embargo violations that

contribute to increasing tensions and hostilities between the parties, and we call on all States — in particular those in the region — to fully comply with the arms embargo and prevent any actions and activities by non-State actors to supply arms into Somalia.

In conclusion, we would like to commend the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) for the positive role it continues to play in Somalia, since there are very few options other than more support for AMISOM at the moment. We therefore look forward to the deployment of Burundian troops, which we hope will contribute to improving the security situation on the ground. Finally, we support the call of Mr. Ould Abdallah to strengthen the operational capacities and capabilities of AMISOM.

Mr. Verbeke (Belgium) (*spoke in French*): The situation in Somalia is grave. It poses a real threat to peace and security in the Horn of Africa and is causing terrible suffering among the Somali population. The situation requires an integrated approach on the part of the international community to address all the various aspects of the crisis. In that context, I thank Special Representative Mr. Ould Abdallah for his detailed report on the latest developments in that country and for his recommendations for strengthening the action of the international community. I also thank the representative of Somalia for his contribution to the debate.

At the political level, the appointment of the new Prime Minister, Mr. Nur Hassan Hussein, has opened a new window of opportunity for progress in the transition process. We encourage the Prime Minister to invite all political forces, inside Somalia or out, that renounce violence and accept the Transitional Federal Charter as the framework for the restoration of peace in Somalia to participate in an inclusive political process. The Transitional Federal Government is primarily responsible for implementing the conclusions of the National Reconciliation Congress and for establishing a road map for completing the transitional period. That includes preparations for a constitutional referendum and for elections by 2009, in accordance with the Transitional Federal Charter.

The humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate, as the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Mr. Holmes, recently reminded the Council. There is no indication that this trend will reverse itself. The urgency of the crisis has even prompted dozens of non-governmental organizations to appeal to the international community. A growing portion of the population is dependent on assistance, which, however, is facing serious problems of access. All parties, and the Transitional Federal Institutions in particular, are duty-bound to protect the population, respect international humanitarian law, facilitate access to those in need, and promote the return of displaced persons to their areas of origin.

Incidents similar to that of 4 December, when the closure of land and maritime access points to humanitarian assistance was announced and subsequently retracted, must absolutely be avoided. We must also find a speedy solution, together with the Somali authorities, to the thorny problem of people being made to pay for the right to cross checkpoints. We expect the new Prime Minister to reaffirm his Government's commitment to the facilitation of humanitarian assistance and to do all in his power to end impunity in the country.

The essential prerequisite for lasting improvement, however, remains the stabilization of security. All parties are duty-bound to put an immediate end to acts of violence and to implement a ceasefire that will allow the launching of a genuine political process. Belgium endorses the Secretary-General's analysis that the dispatch of a peacekeeping force cannot be envisaged in the current circumstances. The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) remains the sole available option for facilitating the withdrawal of foreign forces from that country. Belgium expresses its support for AMISOM and for the countries that contribute to it. We reiterate the need to strengthen AMISOM, particularly in financial terms, and encourage the United Nations, in cooperation with the African Union, to consider new forms of support for that force, be it in technical assistance or the design of operations, and to implement them post-haste. Belgium is also committed to that approach.

We are well aware that the United Nations has a responsibility to protect with respect to the people of Somalia and has to maintain its credibility in the eyes of international public opinion. Belgium therefore fully supports the efforts of the Secretary-General and Mr. Ould Abdallah to increase the coordination of international activities in Somalia by developing a comprehensive plan of action, in particular in support of the transition process and the security sector in

Somalia. We especially support the Secretary-General's recommendation that the United Nations Political Office for Somalia be strengthened. We are also willing to listen to those who propose feasible and appropriate solutions to halting the cycle of violence and to stemming the crisis in Somalia, convinced that the international community must pursue and increase its commitment to that course.

Mr. Christian (Ghana): My delegation thanks Special Representative of the Secretary-General Ahmedou Ould Abdallah for his update, as well as for his efforts towards resolving the Somali crisis.

Ghana is concerned that the continuing political stalemate characterized by differences within the Transitional Federal Institutions and divisions between the Government and opposition forces, coupled with the escalation of the insurgency in Somalia, has delayed the adoption of a road map for the implementation of crucial benchmarks in the Transitional Federal Charter.

My delegation calls on the parties in Somalia, both Government and opposition, to respect the outcome of the National Reconciliation Congress held in Mogadishu and to endeavour to work together in good faith to implement its outcomes, including the urgent need to disarm, complete the constitutional process, and conduct free and fair elections by the end of the five-year transitional period. To that end, we call on the opposition parties that boycotted the reconciliation Congress to come on board. The Transitional Federal Government should equally reach out to the opposition for the sake of the unity and peace of the people of Somalia and their country's territorial integrity.

In keeping with the understanding reached at the conference of key international donors held in Stockholm in September 2007, Ghana would wish to stress the desirability of adopting a coordinated and harmonized approach to providing support and assistance in addressing the volatile political and security crisis and the attendant socio-economic conditions and humanitarian catastrophe in Somalia.

We condemn the attacks on the Ugandan contingents of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and commend them for their sacrifices. My delegation reiterates its appeal to the international community to support AMISOM with the necessary financial and logistical resources to facilitate the deployment of pledged contingents. We share the observation of the Secretary-General that a strengthened AMISOM will expedite the withdrawal of foreign forces. Nonetheless, the Security Council and the Secretariat should continue to accord priority attention to the question of developing a contingency plan for the deployment of a robust United Nations peacekeeping force to replace AMISOM, given the scale and magnitude of the security challenges confronting Somalia now.

We commend the humanitarian work of the United Nations and other international humanitarian agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental alike, for their valuable services in helping the displaced and other victims of the dire humanitarian crisis in Somalia. We urge all parties to facilitate access through humanitarian corridors and to respect the rules of international humanitarian law.

We condemn the catalogue of human rights abuses and urge the Transitional Federal Government openly to condemn such abuses to demonstrate its commitment to the rule of law. Finally, we welcome the re-establishment of the Monitoring Group, which helps to check violations of the arms embargo, and urge all States to continue to cooperate with the Group towards the attainment of its desired objectives.

Mr. Lacroix (France) (*spoke in French*): I would like to thank Mr. Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for his briefing. I should also like to thank the representative of Somalia for his statement. I would like to reiterate to Mr. Ould Abdallah that he has the full support of France in carrying out his difficult task.

We welcome in particular that Mr. Ould Abdallah has made proposals to the Security Council for an integrated strategy. We believe that the Somali crisis is an overarching crisis — a political, security and, of course, humanitarian crisis. And as Mr. Ould Abdallah has pointed out, the crisis poses a threat to the security of the entire region. My delegation would like to emphasize what we believe to be three areas for action that must be addressed simultaneously.

The first is the humanitarian situation. There is today an urgent need to respond to the humanitarian tragedy in Somalia. As described to us by Mr. Ould Abdallah, and as Mr. Holmes pointed out 10 days ago (see S/PV.5792), the situation is continuing to deteriorate. More than 600,000 people fled their homes

in 2007, and at least half of the inhabitants of Mogadishu have left the city for shelter in improvised camps along the roads. Fighting in the capital continues. Attacks and killings by insurgents are sometimes answered with artillery fire by Ethiopian forces and forces of the Transitional Federal Government. We recall that the Transitional Federal Government has a responsibility to protect the civilian population and that all combatants must respect humanitarian law.

France hopes that humanitarian aid will be increased, that access to people in need will be guaranteed and that working conditions for humanitarian staff will improve. That goes also for other international personnel working in Somalia. In that regard, I am thinking in particular of journalists and, especially today, of our fellow citizen Mr. Gwen Le Gouil, who was kidnapped on Sunday in the Puntland region. France demands his immediate release.

France is continuing to provide military protection for vessels of the World Food Programme, which is providing essential food aid for Somalis. Two rotations have already taken place, with a third rotation under way. France's commitment will continue until 16 January. These operations have made it possible to significantly improve the delivery of humanitarian assistance. We are in contact with several of our partners to ensure that these operations can continue beyond 16 January.

Secondly, France has, however, not lost sight of the fact that the crisis will not be resolved without political dialogue. Once he has established his new governing team, the first task of the new Prime Minister, Mr. Nur Hassan Hussein, will be to launch a dialogue between the Transitional Federal Government and the opposition in Somalia and elsewhere. That dialogue must be as inclusive as possible and include those who have taken up arms, with the exception, of course, of some extremists with an international agenda. The Security Council must lend its unreserved support for Mr. Ould Abdallah's efforts to bring on board all parties to the conflict. After 16 years of chaos and conflict, France supports in particular the idea of bringing together small groups of decision makers to address specific issues in order to establish an environment conducive to a genuine political process.

The third area is security. The question is how best to respond given the situation that I have outlined. Mr. Ould Abdallah has referred to an ad hoc force to supplement the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). The idea of such a force under a United Nations mandate deserves to be considered. There are also other options that could be envisaged. Whatever the case, the situation is such that, in our view, the Security Council cannot rule out any option, whether it be to provide support for AMISOM or to consider mandating an ad hoc force or a possible peacekeeping force. We therefore ask that the Secretariat address all those options, including the speedy deployment of a technical assessment mission, and provide regular updates to the Council on its work.

For the short term, my delegation notes that all credible scenarios call for greater political dialogue and the speedy deployment of AMISOM. France pays tribute to the African Union and to the Ugandan contingent on the ground. We have participated actively in the training of the Burundian contingent. We welcome the announcement made Friday by the Special Envoy of the African Union that the first Burundian battalion would be deployed very soon, namely, in the second half of December.

In the light of what I have said, it will come as no surprise that France supports the idea that there is a need to change course. Given the humanitarian catastrophe taking place before our very eyes, complete disengagement by the international community is clearly out of the question. Nor is the status quo an option.

I would like to thank Mr. Ould Abdallah for the suggestions he made this morning. We hope that the Security Council will be able to quickly consider those options by working together substantively with all the relevant services of the Secretariat.

Mr. Suescum (Panama) (*spoke in Spanish*): First of all, allow me to thank Mr. Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, and the representative of Somalia for their statements. They have once again depicted one of the direst situations we face. Unfortunately, seemingly unlike other organs of the United Nations, the Security Council appears unable to find an effective way to improve this thorny situation.

The Security Council has received many reports in which the humanitarian and human rights situation merited particular attention. They include the briefing presented to the Human Rights Council on 11 December

by Ms. Louise Arbour, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the briefing to the Security Council on 6 December 2007 by Mr. John Holmes, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator. Ms. Arbour reiterated her concerns with regard to the human rights of Somalis caught in the crossfire of the conflict, especially in Mogadishu. For his part, Mr. Holmes briefed the Council on the terrible humanitarian situation in the improvised refugee camps surrounding that city, which house some 600,000 people. According to Mr. Holmes, that may be the largest group of internally displaced persons in the world today.

In addition, recent political events serve to highlight the deterioration of the Transitional Federal Institutions. The endemic and progressive fragmentation of Somali politics should spur the international community and the people of Somalia themselves to show greater support. In the short and medium terms, there is a risk that the new Government of Prime Minister Nur Hassan Hussein will collapse, and along with it our efforts to stabilize Somalia.

Reports indicate that the international community and relief organizations have made significant progress in humanitarian coverage, but that a great deal remains to be done. As a matter of priority, the Government and the opposition must both address the critical political situation and undertake specific measures to ensure the implementation of the outcome of the National Reconciliation Congress.

On a more strategic level, the Security Council can no longer sit back with arms folded. The mandate of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) will again expire in February 2008, and the Council has yet to find a way to strengthen or replace that operation. In the coming weeks we must therefore take fundamental decisions with regard to that operation and the possible alternatives to replace it: either the deployment of a multinational force or the dispatch of a peacekeeping force. As a prelude to whatever decision is taken, it will be necessary to dispatch a technical assessment mission.

Finally, the Government must have zero tolerance with soldiers and civilians leading illegal groups throughout the length and breadth of the region. It must reduce excessive border controls, prevent the harassment of relief workers and dedicate greater resources to dealing with piracy.

Our lack of action could jeopardize the credibility of this Council. Consequently, it is crucial that we act energetically and rapidly, given these challenges.

Mr. Dolgov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We, too, are grateful to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Ould Abdallah, for his detailed briefing and to the Permanent Representative of Somalia for his evaluation.

The Russian Federation is seriously concerned by the development of the situation in Somalia, particularly in the area of security and also in the humanitarian sphere. Despite the efforts of the Transitional Federal Government and the Ethiopian troops and the Uganda contingent of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) supporting it, the situation in the country remains extremely serious. We welcome the appointment of Nur Hassan Hussein as Prime Minister of Somalia. This is a very important step. We now need to enhance the effectiveness of the work of the Government so as to have effective solutions to the cumulative complex problems facing Somalia. Responsibility for overcoming the lengthy crisis lies with the Somalis themselves. All parties, including, of course, the Transitional Federal Government, must take decisive steps for a speedy normalization of the situation and to assist the peacebuilding process and to strengthen State institutions.

Real progress in ensuring a broad political dialogue and the implementation of a comprehensive process of national reconciliation will create conditions for preventing a further slide of the country into a humanitarian disaster. There is still a threat of the conflict in Somalia growing into a regional one. Such a scenario is likely to destabilize an already complex situation in the Horn of Africa. In these conditions, we feel it is extremely important to continue to observe strictly the regime of the arms embargo against Somalia. Neighbouring countries can and must play a constructive role in assisting and promoting a settlement, and above all, as regards normalization of the situation in the area of security.

In such conditions, of course, maintaining the status quo in the area of security in Somalia is unacceptable, and here we agree absolutely with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. We support the activities of AMISOM, and we are

convinced that a full deployment of the Mission will greatly help to create conditions for effective progress in the process of national reconciliation. We note the plans for a further strengthening of AMISOM that are being worked on at this time, and we hope that they will be implemented appropriately.

We also agree that it is essential to continue work on the modalities and the preliminary planning for a possible United Nations peacekeeping operation in Somalia. However, it is clear that, in the present circumstances, the prospect of transforming AMISOM into a United Nations peacekeeping operation still depends directly on a substantial improvement in the area of security and on achieving serious progress in a political settlement.

We have taken note of the recommendation by the Secretary-General, confirmed today by his Special Representative, on sending a multinational force to Somalia. This idea deserves careful work with the involvement of all interested sides, including, of course, Somalia.

Mr. Voto-Bernales (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, for the information given to us concerning the grave situation in Somalia. We commend the United Nations Political Office for Somalia for its work, along with the United Nations team working on the development of a comprehensive peacebuilding strategy for Somalia. We encourage further efforts in this direction in order to find a solution to the protracted crisis besetting the country.

We have taken note of all of the efforts that have been deployed by the Transitional Federal Government aimed at implementing the transitional political process and national reconciliation. Taking account of the situation in the field and the difficult security and humanitarian situation in Somalia, I would like to outline a number of points concerning the political dialogue process, the humanitarian situation and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

In spite of its weaknesses, the convening of a national reconciliation congress is an important milestone in the process of national reconciliation. In this regard, it is crucial that dialogue between the parties continue, including the opposition groups, both within and outside of the country. We agree with the Secretary-General that the Transitional Federal Government should show the political will and must adopt a stance of openness when dealing with the opposition groups. In turn, the Government must also implement the recommendations adopted by the Congress, including the development of a road map, in order to accomplish those tasks that are enshrined in the Transitional Federal Charter, in particular the constitutional process, as well as the preparations for the national census, the elections to be held in 2009 and the implementation of the national security plan and the national stabilization plan. On the other hand, the opposition groups must renounce violence and must agree to the Transitional Federal Charter in order to create the necessary conditions for reconciliation. All parties must understand that it is only through an inclusive dialogue and through a genuine political process that a sustainable peace will be achieved.

Considering the humanitarian situation, we are disturbed to hear about the lack of security and how this has increased the vulnerability of the population. The humanitarian situation has worsened, given the rise in violence. Access to humanitarian assistance is limited; it has been impeded because of the increasing lack of security, because of the roadblocks that have been created that block access to overland consignments of the World Food Programme (WFP), and pirate activities on the coast of Somalia that are preventing aid and assistance from reaching areas that require it.

According to the last report of the Secretary-General, there are currently in Somalia some 750,000 internally displaced persons, of which 350,000 have only recently become displaced. In the light of this dramatic situation, we must urge all parties to guarantee strict compliance with the principles of international humanitarian law and human rights. Moreover, the situation must be tackled, as the humanitarian crisis persists and the ongoing violence could dissipate all political efforts. To that end, we welcome the fact that the planning of a unified appeal for 2008 has begun, and we welcome the pledges for contributions that have been received.

With regard to AMISOM and its financing — and these are my concluding comments — we commend AMISOM's troops for their professionalism in fulfilling their duties, working in a highly difficult and risky environment. We agree with the report of the Under-Secretary-General concerning the need to maintain AMISOM, to ensure that it remains operative,

and to strengthen its capacities through new deployments of troops in order to provide more effective and urgent assistance for the stabilization of the country.

Ms. Wolcott (United States of America): We thank United Nations Special Representative Ould Abdallah for his briefing this morning.

The United States welcomes the appointment of Nur Hassan Hussein as the new Prime Minister of the Transitional Federal Government. We hope that that Government can now focus on renewing its efforts towards inclusive political dialogue and resuming the comprehensive political process outlined by the Transitional Federal Government Charter.

We hope Prime Minister Hussein will draw on his humanitarian background to address the needs of Somalia's nearly one million displaced persons, and in working to alleviate current impediments to effective delivery of United States and other international humanitarian aid.

We urge the Transitional Federal Government to move quickly to facilitate the drafting of a new Constitution and formation of key commissions, such as a national electoral commission, that will allow national elections to take place on schedule in 2009. We also continue to call on Somali stakeholders across the political spectrum to rejoin the political dialogue process and to discuss key elements of the transitional political process leading towards national elections in 2009.

In fiscal year 2007, the United States was the largest bilateral donor of humanitarian assistance to Somalia, with approximately $90 million in such aid provided, in addition to $25 million in development and democracy assistance. And we continue to be the largest bilateral donor in support of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), with nearly $59.6 million provided to date in support of that effort.

We call on all Somali and regional actors to prevent extremist elements from using Somalia as a safe haven for continued attacks against civilians, the Transitional Federal Government and AMISOM. The United States has repeatedly urged the leadership of the Transitional Federal Government to reach out to key stakeholders, particularly in Mogadishu, to resume the transitional political process and work towards an effective ceasefire arrangement as the best means of isolating extremist elements seeking to prevent further political dialogue.

The United States commends AMISOM, in particular the Ugandan forces, for their efforts in Somalia, operating under difficult and dangerous circumstances. We welcome the commitment by Burundi, Ghana and Nigeria to deploy forces in support of AMISOM. We urge all members of the African Union (AU) that have pledged to send troops to Somalia to do so without delay, and we urge the international community to assist the AU with the necessary logistical and financial resources, so that AMISOM may be fully deployed. We continue to support the full and timely deployment of AMISOM as a critical component in restoring stability and creating the space for continued dialogue and reconciliation.

The United States would like once again to stress the need for contingency planning for a United Nations peacekeeping operation in Somalia. We ask that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations send a technical assessment mission to Somalia as soon as conditions allow. As we all know, the dynamics in Somalia are fluid and can change at any time. We must begin the contingency planning now, so that the United Nations will be prepared to deploy if and when conditions on the ground permit.

The United States remains concerned about the increase in piracy off the coast of Somalia. We commend our partners in the Combined Task Force 150 that continue to patrol the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean to ensure the safe passage of merchant ships, especially ships carrying humanitarian cargo. The United States supports the 5 July letter from Mr. Efthimios Mitropoulos, Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization, to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on the need for a new Security Council resolution to address the problem of piracy off the coast of Somalia. The United States looks forward to working with other members of the Council on this issue next year.

Finally, the United States is gravely concerned about the deteriorating humanitarian situation, particularly in south-central Somalia. We will continue monitoring the humanitarian situation, and we welcome continued close coordination and cooperation with the United Nations country team and our donor partners in Nairobi to ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches those most in need within Somalia.

Mr. Al-Nasser (Qatar) (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank you, Mr. President, for convening this meeting. I wish to welcome Mr. Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia. I thank him for his briefing and urge him to continue the efforts he has undertaken since he took office to promote a comprehensive political process in Somalia in accordance with Security Council resolution 1772 (2007).

It is unfortunate that, as the Secretary-General stated in his most recent report to the Security Council under this item (S/2007/658), the security situation in Somalia is making it difficult to deploy United Nations peacekeepers. However, we welcome the Secretary-General's recent statement that, despite that situation, work is under way to develop a strategic assessment for a United Nations intervention in Somalia in order to provide an integrated approach and a framework for United Nations peacebuilding efforts in that country. In addition, the Organization can play a greater role in mobilizing and providing support for the efforts of the African Union (AU) to strengthen the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), including completion of the deployment of Burundian troops this month.

We agree that ensuring stability in Somalia requires parallel efforts on the political and security tracks. We have always called for a national dialogue in Somalia based on the principles of reconciliation and inclusion, rather than on those of force and exclusion. Therefore, we commend Mr. Ould Abdallah's efforts to move national reconciliation forward, thus creating the basic conditions needed for the country's continued progress towards stability and democracy. That can be achieved only through an end to the violence, the withdrawal of foreign troops and the building of constitutional democratic institutions.

At this juncture, it is essential that Somalia continue to broaden the political reconciliation process, which must include all tribes and factions. In addition to continuing that approach, the Government must draft a constitution for the country, develop a road map for the remainder of the transitional period and pave the way for conducting a census and elections by the end of the period.

It goes without saying that the disputes in Somalia, whether within the institutions of the Transitional Federal Government or between the Government and the opposition, must be settled through dialogue. Moreover, all parties in the country must refrain from using violence as a way to express political positions. They must also stop jeopardizing the safety of civilians, impeding humanitarian access to them and, in particular, targeting humanitarian relief workers, journalists and AMISOM personnel.

Despite the fact that the Government formed by newly appointed Prime Minister Nur Hassan Hussein was dissolved shortly after its formation, we hope that it will soon be succeeded by a new, broad-based Cabinet that includes various Somali parties and that can communicate well with the opposition. We also hope that it will play an effective role in alleviating the worsening humanitarian situation in the country, particularly since Mr. Hussein has a solid background and experience in that area.

The dire humanitarian situation facing the people of Somalia has been described as the worst in Africa. It is regrettable that that the humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate. Indeed, since the beginning of this year, the number of civilians fleeing the capital because of the continuing violence has risen to approximately 600,000, making the problem of internally displaced persons a serious crisis. Furthermore, the social and health statistics for women and children in Somalia are among the worst in the world. Briefing the Council after his recent visit to Somalia (see S/PV.5792), the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs explained that international humanitarian agencies face great difficulties in carrying out their tasks because of the continuing violence, and that the international response has been inadequate. Therefore, the flow of international aid to Somalia must continue, together with cooperation and coordination between international and regional parties and the Transitional Federal Government in order to guarantee humanitarian access to those most in need.

The question that arises here is why the international response to the humanitarian situation in Somalia has been different from the response to that in Darfur. Are the two situations not the same? Are innocent civilians not suffering as a result of both conflicts? In addition to the extremely grave humanitarian situation being experienced by the Somali people, their human rights are being violated, as the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights indicated on 11 December in her statement to the Human Rights Council. We deplore the serious violations that are taking place, including the targeting

of civilians, as well as the indifference shown by rebels, troops of the Transitional Government and Ethiopian troops towards civilian population centres. Just in recent days, scores of people have been killed or injured by artillery shells that targeted their homes and shelters in Mogadishu. This situation should not be tolerated.

Moreover, the issue of the ever-worsening piracy that has been taking place for almost a year now and that has not spared even ships carrying humanitarian aid must be addressed. Therefore, initiatives taken recently by the French navy to escort humanitarian assistance vessels are praiseworthy.

Finally, I would like to point out that the mandate of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia expires at the end of this month. Everyone agrees on the need for its continued existence. Therefore we would like to stress that the role of the Office in supporting the participatory political process and achieving national reconciliation is important and must be strengthened.

Mr. Okio (Congo) (*spoke in French*): Allow me to welcome Mr. Ould Abdallah, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia, and to salute his efforts in the country in a particularly difficult context. I would also like to thank the Permanent Representative of Somalia for his contribution to the debate.

As regards the latest developments in Somalia, the least that can be said is that the situation remains serious. All the main elements noted in the report of the Secretary-General (S/2007/658) remain current, both with respect to the security and political situation and as regards, of course, the peace process. In this context, the humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate. The number of displaced persons is reaching record numbers, and the number of people needing humanitarian assistance is constantly growing. All these figures give us the scale of the disaster.

At the same time, the Monitoring Group on Somalia notes continuing violations of the arms embargo imposed by resolution 751 (1992). These weapons, which come from countries in the region, continue to arrive in Mogadishu and to supply the extremist groups. Moreover, acts of piracy are continuing. In that connection, we would like to welcome once again the very courageous initiative taken by France that has made it possible to improve the shipment of humanitarian assistance. We regret that it has not raised the expected support. Since it will be concluding soon, pirates will have fine days ahead, unless new initiatives are planned.

If I could compare Somalia to a sick person, I would say that the deterioration in its state of health requires not just shock treatment, but also the involvement of several specialists. Neither the States of the subregion nor the African Union, through the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), can stem this illness alone. That is why my delegation repeats its appeal for a ceasefire and for national reconciliation in the context of an inter-Somali political dialogue, without which no progress can be achieved.

With respect to supporting the Secretary-General's proposal for the establishment of a multinational force, we would like to recall that overlapping sociological, historical and other factors among the Somali people and those of other countries in the subregion should lead us to taking increasingly into account regional aspects of the Somali crisis, not only in regard to approaches to a solution and but also to foreseeable consequences if a political solution is not found.

In the immediate future, we feel that the Council should support the new Government and the Prime Minister, Mr. Nur Hassan Hussein, and invite his Government to continue its efforts toward national reconciliation by relying upon the progress made by the National Reconciliation Congress held from 15 July to 30 August 2007. If the Congress decisions referred to by the Secretary-General in paragraph 5 of his report could be implemented, then a big step could be taken towards stabilization of the situation in this country.

In our view, the Security Council should also ensure that the United Nations Political Office for Somalia is strengthened so that it can play a leading role in coordinating efforts made by parties, supporting the efforts of AMISOM, seriously envisaging the deployment of a multinational force, taking appropriate measures to contain acts of piracy, considering the establishment of an investigation commission with a view to holding accountable the serious violators of international human rights and humanitarian law.

Mr. President, my delegation knows how much your country supports initiatives for a return of peace in Somalia. We have counted on your continued support to help this country.

Congo, in conclusion, condemns the kidnapping of the French journalist and calls for his immediate release.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my national capacity as the representative of Italy.

I wish first to warmly welcome Special Representative Ould Abdallah and to thank him for a most focused presentation with an operational approach. That is precisely what we need. I am glad that we have been able to have this debate in December, under the Italian presidency, given that Somalia is a strong priority for Italy. I am also glad that the public format has allowed the whole membership to follow the meeting.

First of all, the scale of human suffering in Somalia has become unacceptable. Effectively addressing the humanitarian emergency dimension of the Somali crisis has to be at the top of our agenda. The words used by Under-Secretary-General Holmes a few days ago still echo in this Chamber "increasingly terrible things are now happening in Mogadishu, as it descends into the nightmare of urban guerrilla warfare and reciprocal atrocities" (*S/PV.5792, p. 6*).

I wish to acknowledge the great work being accomplished by the International Committee of the Red Cross, the non-governmental organizations active in Somalia and the humanitarian community in general to alleviate this human suffering. But I also concur with the Special Representative that without a consistent and strong multidimensional strategy encompassing the political, security and human rights dimension, the humanitarian response alone cannot solve the crisis.

Secondly, the situation in Somalia is indeed a very serious threat to international peace and security, which requires an appropriate response by this Council. Like many others before me, I fully agree with the Special Representative's assessment of the need to radically change our agenda for Somalia and step up our efforts. "Business as usual", as has been said, is not an option any more. I am glad to see a strong awareness of this fact among Council members. Now we have to translate this awareness into a coherent, multidimensional strategy and draw the necessary operational conclusions.

Our paramount goal should remain, more than ever, the active promotion — at the appropriate time and under the right conditions — of a United Nations peacekeeping operation in Somalia. We note that today's discussion has indicated that that is indeed the view of many, if not all, Council members. A first step in that direction was the technical meeting organized by the United Kingdom in early December. We hope that this dialogue with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) could be accelerated so that concrete options within the contingency plan could be presented to the Council soon. Let us remember that the contingency plan was last requested in August in resolution 1772 (2007). That is already four months ago.

In particular, it is necessary — and this has been said very clearly by other members who have spoken before me — that the technical assessment mission that was also requested in paragraph 16 of resolution 1772 (2007) be dispatched to the region as soon as possible and, I would add, without delay. Keeping the United Nations option alive will also encourage African troop-contributing countries to participate in the African Union Military Observer Mission in Somalia (AMISON), whose strengthening remains our first objective in the short term, as has been stated this morning by all members. This is the first priority: to strengthen AMISON, because what is at stake is the credibility of the partnership between the African Union and the United Nations.

Italy has provided €10 million to AMISON and invited other donors to contribute. I wish to underline, however, that our support of AMISON should not prevent us from actively pursuing all other options and, in particular, from responding to the African Union request that was very strongly expressed here by the representative of Congo for a United Nations rehatting as soon as possible.

Thirdly, the Special Representative has heard this morning that there is wide support for his role, which is indeed a very challenging one. His commitment and proposal for a re-energized agenda and political process for Somalia are most welcome, and he has our strong and fullest support. I wish to add the full support of my Government to that which has already been expressed by others. I trust that the Special Representative's action in the region and his position vis-à-vis all interlocutors will be strengthened following this debate.

We also need to strengthen the United Nations political office in Mogadishu and provide a special representative with the necessary means to carry on its

initiatives and to push the political process forward. I also hope that the Council may soon express itself on Somalia by means of a presidential statement, and I look forward to receiving the proposal that the United Kingdom will circulate in this regard. I would like to express deep appreciation to the United Kingdom for its efforts.

Somalia is a textbook case on the credibility of this Organization and its ability to make a difference on the ground. We cannot continue to pay lip service to doing more for Somalia and then do nothing.

We need concrete — I repeat, concrete — steps forward, and we need to move from goodwill to action now.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

I give the floor to the representative of Portugal.

Mr. Salgueiro (Portugal): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union (EU). The candidate countries Croatia, Turkey and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, as well as the Republic of Moldova, align themselves with this declaration.

I will base my statement on the conclusions drawn from the meeting of the Council of Ministers of the European Union held on 10 December of this year.

The EU is deeply concerned with the situation in Somalia. We believe that it poses a significant threat to peace and security in the Horn of Africa and beyond. It also causes immense suffering to the people of Somalia. The EU therefore calls for urgent efforts by all parties towards an inclusive political process and reiterates its commitment to a comprehensive approach to the Somali crisis, covering the political, security and humanitarian facets.

The European Union welcomes the appointment of the new Prime Minister, Mr. Nur Hassan Hussein, and encourages him to invite all political forces, inside and outside Somalia, that renounce violence and accept the Transitional Federal Charter as the framework for restoring peace and stability in the country, to an inclusive political process.

The EU is willing to consider a significant contribution for the transitional period, on the basis of a mutual understanding between the EU and the Transitional Federal Government on progress to be made in the political process. Indeed, the Transitional Federal Institutions have the primary responsibility to implement the outcome of the National Reconciliation Congress, as endorsed by the Transitional Federal Parliament, and to establish a road map for actions until the end of the transitional period. This includes the preparation for a constitutional referendum and elections by 2009 as set out in the Transitional Federal Charter.

The European Union condemns all acts of violence and calls on all parties to cease hostilities and engage in a ceasefire, confidence-building and security arrangements in the search for sustainable peace. The EU urges the Transitional Federal Institutions, Ethiopia and all other actors in Somalia to ensure humanitarian access, to respect human rights and international humanitarian law, to protect the civilian population and to facilitate the secure and early return of displaced persons to Mogadishu and other areas of origin.

The European Community Humanitarian Aid Department has provided some €18 million to Somalia this year, plus support to refugees in Kenya and Yemen. The EU remains committed to enhancing humanitarian assistance, provided there is unimpeded humanitarian access and respect for the integrity of humanitarian assistance.

Peace cannot be built on impunity. The EU therefore calls on the Transitional Federal Government to investigate all human rights abuses committed in Somalia and bring those responsible to justice. In this regard, we encourage the United Nations to use all available instruments to improve monitoring of the human rights situation in the country.

The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) is at present the only available option to facilitate the withdrawal of foreign and regional forces from Somalia. The European Union expresses its support for AMISOM, particularly recognizing the contribution that Uganda has made, and reiterates the need to strengthen AMISOM, including through identifying substantial new financial support. The European Commission, through the African Peace Facility and the Instrument for Stability is channelling €15 million for direct financing of AMISOM and €5 million for African Union planning capacities for that Mission. Some EU member States have also provided

financial contributions for AMISOM. The EU is committed to make further contributions to the African Union, on the basis of a comprehensive political and needs assessment, as well as to provide bilateral contributions to African Union member States deploying to AMISOM, and we call on other donors to contribute as well.

The EU also encourages the United Nations to provide more support to AMISOM in accordance with resolution 1772 (2007) of the Security Council and to move forward with contingency planning for a possible peacekeeping operation in Somalia.

The European Union expresses its full support for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Ould Abdallah, and to his leadership role in coordinating efforts of the international community. His readiness to draw up an international action plan, and in particular to frame international support to the transitional process and establish a strategic framework for security sector support to Somalia, has been greatly appreciated. The EU is ready to support deliberation and implementation of this plan.

The EU recognizes the increasing danger posed by acts of piracy off the Somali coast and will study possible ways to respond to the problem, together with the Somali authorities and the international community. We welcome the French initiative to provide military accompaniment to vessels chartered by the World Food Programme (WFP) delivering aid to Somalia, while stressing the need for international initiatives that can continue to provide protection to the WFP beyond January 2008.

Finally, we believe that a successful European Union delivery and responsiveness in the Somali peace process remains essential to support a comprehensive political solution, which would bring long-term stability to Somalia.

The President: I now give the floor to Ambassador Løvald, Permanent Representative of Norway.

Mr. Løvald (Norway): Norway, as co-Chair of the International Contact Group on Somalia, welcomes this opportunity to address the Council on the situation in Somalia, and we thank the Special Representative for his briefing. Let me take this opportunity to emphasize our full support for his efforts to bring about positive change in Somalia.

We are all deeply worried by the present state of affairs in Somalia. The security situation is at best volatile in Mogadishu and in several other areas of the country. The humanitarian crisis has gone from bad to worse, as hundreds of thousands flee the war-affected areas.

We are now at a critical junction for Somalia and for its Transitional Federal Institutions. We welcome the appointment of the new Prime Minister, Mr. Nur Hassan Hussein, and trust that he will focus on the humanitarian crisis in the country. He has indicated that this, along with improving security and deepening the reconciliation process, will be the main priorities of his Government. We support that approach. The problems of Somalia are closely interlinked and can only be solved through a comprehensive effort. The international community must be ready to support this effort.

Security and lasting stability can only be achieved through a genuine and broad-based political reconciliation — a reconciliation which includes all Somali political forces that renounce violence and are ready to take part in a political process. In order for the Transitional Federal Institutions to secure support and gain credibility from the Somali people, it is essential that the Government be able to deliver a minimum of basic services. So far, this has hardly been possible, partly due to the insecurity and violence.

We should be more determined in dealing with the humanitarian crisis and the suffering in Somalia. It may be time to consider a compact between the Somali Transitional Federal Institutions, civil society and other institutions and the United Nations and international agencies, to secure service delivery to the Somali people. Such a compact could set out principles, commitments and good practices guidelines for the delivery of necessary services. Transitional Federal Institutions should also reach out to all groups who are ready to renounce violence and to join in such a compact. The Transitional Federal Institutions should also make a firm commitment to stick to their mandate in the Transitional Federal Charter and the scheduled elections in 2009.

It is imperative to improve the security situation, which means there is an urgent need to strengthen or substitute the present African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) force with a more substantial peacebuilding mission. This would also relieve

Ethiopia of its present security burden and make it possible for them to withdraw their troops. Due to the prevailing security situation, the international presence in Mogadishu and surrounding areas is at best negligible, and this, as well as the absence of a functioning Government, is hampering the work of humanitarian agencies.

That is why we believe it is important for the United Nations and international agencies to increase their presence inside Mogadishu. Such a presence is important for service delivery and as a signal to the Somali people that the international community cares.

To sum up, the international community must be ready to act to alleviate the suffering of the Somali people and to contribute to peace. We strongly support the work of the Special Representative, and urge support for the new Prime Minister and his priorities. This is a critical point in time for Somalia, and it is time for all of us to support those who work for peace and stability in the country and in the region.

The President: I now give the floor again to the Special Representative, Mr. Ould Abdallah, in order to comment on this debate.

Mr. Ould Abdallah (*spoke in French*): I will be very brief. I would just like to make the following comments. First, I am very pleased to make my first briefing to the Council in terms of my new mandate under your presidency, Sir, because your country has an expertise, it is involved, and I am working very well with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Rome.

I would also like to say that I wanted to draw the attention of the Council to the need to review the working approach we have on Somalia. I say this out of respect for the Council. If we continue with the working method we have been using for 17 years, not only are we unlikely to achieve anything, but even worse, this institution risks losing its credibility.

It is that motivation that led me to make these new suggestions. If we maintain the status quo, humanitarian assistance, which is useful and essential, will continue to be shipped from Kenya to Somali ports. But there are limits after 17 years. After so many millions and so much energy spent, we can say that we have not been successful. Can we give up? That is morally and ethically difficult, so we need to act differently. In doing so, we need to accompany the Somalis in a political discussion, which is not easy, and we need to encourage them to dialogue. They are competent and serious. They can do this if we act in a consistent and serious manner.

At the same time, we must provide them with a new security, which will not only give them stability, but will also provide jobs and reassurance. Escorting ships on the high seas will produce more security and reassure the population in Mogadishu.

I think that while waiting, my colleagues in the Secretariat should send a field mission. We cannot send it now, however, because of regulations. I have twice been to Mogadishu and Baidoa. Everybody is going to Mogadishu and Baidoa. I am not saying that it is like the Mediterranean and everything is alright. We can go to Somaliland and we can go to Puntland, but it is in Mogadishu where there are problems, in 4 out of the city's 16 neighbourhoods.

We need to make an effort or admit our own powerlessness. It is said that the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) is doing work. However, it is more accurate to compliment the Ugandan contingent, as it is the only one there. African public opinion is aware, because of the Internet and radio, that there are none from AMISOM, simply a Ugandan contingent. We must strengthen that contingent and try to find — Council members know how better than I do — a means to do that. Perhaps the neighbouring countries from the Middle East could help pending an additional AMISOM reinforcement.

That is what I wanted to say out of respect for the Council, and particularly as regards its credibility and the credibility of this Organization for which I work.

The President: I thank Special Representative Ould Abdallah for the very clear explanation and very clear message that he has given us.

We have fully understood, you can be sure, Sir, the rationale of your statements. I also hope that you realize that one of the main objectives of this debate was to strengthen your hand in dealing with the crisis. I think that the debate has shown that you have full support and that from now on you can feel that your hand really is strengthened.

I think that your clarification has rightly focused on the need to strengthen AMISOM, which the Council has highlighted. It is a question of the credibility of the partnership between the African Union and the United Nations.

Also, I think it has to be clear that we must pay tribute to Uganda, because, as you said, we speak of AMISOM, but in fact that means the battalions of Uganda — to whom all members of the Council are grateful.

There are no further speakers inscribed on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 12.05 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.5806

Security Council

Sixty-second year

Provisional

5806th meeting

Monday, 17 December 2007, 3 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Spatafora	(Italy)
Members:	Belgium	Mr. Verbeke
	China	Mr. Li Kexin
	Congo	Mr. Biabaroh-Iboro
	France	Mr. De Rivière
	Ghana	Mr. Christian
	Indonesia	Mr. Kleib
	Panama	Mr. Arias
	Peru	Mr. Voto-Bernales
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Nasser
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Slovakia	Mr. Burian
	South Africa	Ms. Qwabe
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Johnston
	United States of America	Ms. Wolcott

Agenda

Briefings by Chairmen of subsidiary bodies of the Security Council

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

07-64646 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Briefings by Chairmen of subsidiary bodies of the Security Council

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

At this meeting, we will hear briefings by Mr. Justin Biabaroh-Iboro, who will speak on behalf of Mr. Luc Joseph Okio, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa; Ambassador Leslie Christian, Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1518 (2003); Ambassador Jorge Voto-Bernales, Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo and of the Security Council Working Group established pursuant to resolution 1566 (2004); Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone and of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia; and Ambassador Peter Burian, Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and of the Security Council Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions, and Co-Chairman of the Security Council Ad Hoc Committee on Mandate Review.

I now give the floor to Mr. Justin Biabaroh-Iboro, who will speak on behalf of Mr. Luc Okio, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa.

Mr. Biabaroh-Iboro (Congo) (*spoke in French*): At this meeting devoted to the activities of subsidiary bodies, I should like, before the end of my delegation's chairmanship, to give Council members an overview of the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa, which Congo had the honour to chair in 2006 and 2007.

I should like to recall that an interim report was submitted last September, and thus I will be very brief, mainly stressing the latest activities of the Ad Hoc Group, in particular the seminar on the theme of an effective global conflict prevention strategy in Africa, the role of the Security Council.

After a slow start-up due to familiarization with the issues, the Ad Hoc Working Group adopted, under the chairmanship of Congo, a programme of work structured around a simple approach: the organization of interactive presentations with various actors involved in conflict management, with a view to convening a seminar on a global conflict resolution strategy in Africa.

Over the past two years, a total of 17 meetings were held by the Ad Hoc Working Group including initial contacts and the preparations for and holding of the seminar. As regards the presentations, the Group heard five communications, on which we reported during our presentation of the interim report on 27 August.

The seminar, which was held in accordance with the provisions of resolution 1625 (2005) and the presidential statement (S/PRST/2007/31) adopted on 28 August 2007 at the public debate held under the presidency of the Congo on the item entitled "Maintenance of international peace and security: the role of the Security Council in conflict prevention and resolution, in particular in Africa", followed up on the first policy forum, organized under the chairmanship of Benin, in June 2005, on the theme "Enhancing the United Nations capacity for conflict prevention: the role of the Security Council" (see S/2005/833). The goal of the seminar was strengthening Security Council action in conflict prevention in an approach stressing the culture of prevention.

Throughout the process of preparing for the seminar, the Ad Hoc Group benefited from the assistance of the Office of the Special Adviser for Africa and from the Department of Political Affairs, whom I should like to thank.

The following themes were dealt with: cooperation between the Security Council and the United Nations system; opportunities for cooperation among the Security Council, the African Union and other partners; and cooperation with United Nations intergovernmental bodies.

While the Working Group is still considering the recommendations of the seminar, I should like to note

that, on the basis of a set of questions adopted by the Ad Hoc Working Group and following intensive interactive discussions, the participants formulated the following recommendations, among others: institute an early warning mechanism enabling United Nations bodies to act upstream rather than downstream and strengthen those that exist at the regional and/or subregional level; establish mechanisms allowing the Security Council to react promptly to crisis situations; give the Secretary-General a clearer mandate in terms of preventive diplomacy; support coherently the role played by the Secretary-General or his representatives in preventive diplomacy through Security Council decisions, resolutions and statements that are firm and unanimous; give particular attention to disputes or situations that could pose a threat to international peace and security; send fact-finding missions to areas at risk likely to pose a threat to international peace and security, ensuring the involvement of the agencies of the United Nations system working on the ground; strengthen and improve existing partnerships between the Security Council and regional and subregional organizations, pursuant to Chapter VIII of the Charter; and act on the root causes of conflicts in coordination with other United Nations bodies.

In conclusion, I should just like to say that the results achieved over the past two years by the Working Group under the Congolese chairmanship, modest though they may be, made it possible to refocus the debate on the problems of conflict prevention, particularly in Africa. On behalf of the members of the Ad Hoc Working Group, the Congo expresses the hope that the Council will pay close attention to the conclusions and recommendations made at the seminar — which will be annexed to the Group's report for 2006-2007 — with a view to the appropriate decisions.

The President: I thank Mr. Biabaroh-Iboro for his briefing on behalf of Mr. Okio. I want to assure him that the members of the Council will take note of the recommendations made with a view to taking the appropriate decisions.

I now give the floor to Ambassador Leslie Christian, Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1518 (2003).

Mr. Christian (Ghana): Since the completion of my predecessor's tour of duty in April this year, I have had the honour to chair the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1518 (2003), as I shall continue to do until the end of this month, when Ghana's two-year tenure on the Council will draw to an end. Drawing on my personal experiences in the Committee, I would like to take this opportunity to give a brief account of the Committee's work during my chairmanship.

Pursuant to paragraph 1 of resolution 1518 (2003) the Committee is mandated to identify individuals and entities referred to in paragraph 19 of resolution 1483 (2003) whose funds, assets or economic resources should be frozen and transferred to the Development Fund for Iraq. This applies to individuals and entities associated with the former Iraqi regime, as specified in paragraph 23 of resolution 1483 (2003).

The names of 89 individuals and 208 entities are currently inscribed on the Committee's list. Although during my chairmanship the Committee has continued to consider various requests for the addition and removal of names, no changes have been made to the list, and the Committee's work has been focused mainly on assisting the authorities of Iraq in seeking information and clarification relating to assets frozen outside Iraq. Since the Security Council remains seized of the situation in Iraq, the Council's relevant subsidiary organs may continue their assistance to the Government and the people of Iraq, while keeping the future work of the Committee under review, as may be deemed appropriate.

In accordance with past practice, the views expressed here reflect my personal perspective as Chair and do not necessarily represent the views of the Committee or its members.

I wish to conclude by thanking all members of the Committee and all other relevant parties for their support and cooperation during my chairmanship. Finally, I wish to assure the incoming Chairman of the Committee of my availability to assist in any way possible with the transition of the chairmanship.

The President: I thank Ambassador Christian for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone and of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia.

Mr. Al-Nasser (Qatar) (*spoke in Arabic*): Thank you, Mr. President, for giving me the opportunity to speak today in my capacity as Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone and of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia. I have had the privilege of chairing those Committees since the beginning of this year. In my statement, I should like to give the Council an overview of the work undertaken by these two subsidiary organs under my chairmanship and to make a few personal observations.

More than a decade has passed since the adoption of resolution 1132 (1997), which imposed an arms embargo on Sierra Leone and a travel ban on members of the military Government of the day. Since that time, the country has made great progress towards political stability and security. The Committee's mandate was amended by resolution 1172 (1998), and the ban on the export of diamonds from Sierra Leone was lifted in 2003. The security situation in the country has improved. Free and fair parliamentary and presidential elections were held in August. The most recent milestone was the country's inclusion on the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission. A few days ago, the Sierra Leone Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework, a document promoting partnership with the Government in order to meet the challenges of peacebuilding, was issued.

The work of the Committee is now limited to tasks related to the embargo on the export of weapons to non-State actors in Sierra Leone and the travel ban imposed on individuals included on the Committee's list, who currently number 30. The list has not been amended over the past year. However, in the context of the Committee's consideration of whether the list should be updated, I wrote a letter on 25 July 2007 to the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone requesting his Government's views concerning the individuals included on the list and whether the list should be updated to better reflect the current situation in Sierra Leone. The Committee is still awaiting that information from the Sierra Leone Government.

There have been no violations of the arms embargo or the travel ban during the past year.

The Committee held an informal meeting on 4 December to consider communications received from the Registry of the Special Court for Sierra Leone concerning travel to The Hague by certain individuals included on the list, for purposes related to the trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor. I sent a reply to the Registry explaining the established procedure for granting exemptions from the travel ban. I believe that, in order to facilitate the work of the Court and the procedures for travel ban exemptions, the Security Council should adopt a resolution granting a comprehensive travel ban exemption to persons required to testify before the Court, similar to resolution 1688 (2006) on Liberia. This morning, the Council discussed a draft resolution in that regard at the expert level.

I now turn to the Committee on Liberia, which has been more active in terms of the number of meetings held. This year, the Committee has held nine informal meetings. At its two most recent meetings, held on 5 and 12 December 2007, the Committee heard a presentation of the final report of the Panel of Experts, which is doing a professional and useful job. The report included specific technical recommendations aimed at improving the arms embargo regime. I believe that those recommendations deserve to be considered by the Committee. I believe also that the Committee must examine and update the sanctions list so that it reflects developments on the ground, serves the broader goal of the sanctions and takes legal due process into account.

I am pleased to inform the Council that, on 12 June 2007, the Committee succeeded in adopting revised guidelines that take into account the procedures for delisting from the lists of the sanctions committees, as set out in resolution 1730 (2006). Pursuant to the new procedures, the Commission has already delisted one individual, in November.

Over the past year, the Committee has continued to receive requests for exemptions from the arms embargo, in accordance with the provisions of resolutions 1521 (2003) and 1683 (2006), as well as requests for exemptions from the travel ban, in accordance with the provisions of resolutions 1521 (2003) and 1532 (2004). The Committee has continued its consideration of these requests. It has also received State notifications on authorizing payments out of frozen assets, in accordance with the exemption granted in paragraph 2 (b) of resolution 1532 (2004).

Like Sierra Leone, Liberia, which is located in the same subregion, has made great strides towards achieving security and political stability. A President

was elected in free and fair elections. The Security Council responded to these developments by amending the Liberia sanctions regime in order to reflect the positive developments in that country.

After lifting the ban on the export of timber last year, the Security Council adopted resolution 1753 (2007) in April of this year, lifting thereby the ban on the export of diamonds, based on the commendable progress made in the Government's control over the diamond sector and on its effective coordination with the Kimberley Process. This was affirmed by the representative of the Kimberley Process before the Committee in a meeting held on 13 April, shortly before the adoption of resolution 1753 (2007). The Committee continues to play a pivotal role in coordinating with the Kimberley Process in order to ensure compliance with the terms upon which the diamond ban was lifted. The Committee has received two letters, on 7 May and 23 July 2007 respectively, that, combined, constitute the report of the Kimberley Process requested by resolution 1753 (2007).

In closing, I would like to thank my fellow members of both Committees, with whom I have enjoyed working. I would like to express my gratitude to the Security Council Subsidiary Organs Branch in the Department of Political Affairs. I would to like to make special mention here of Mr. James Sutterlin, who was Secretary of both of the Committees I chaired and who showed a high level of professionalism and skill throughout this period.

The President: I thank Ambassador Al-Nasser for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Ambassador Peter Burian, Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and of the Security Council Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions, as well as Co-Chairman of the Security Council Ad Hoc Committee on Mandate Review.

Mr. Burian (Slovakia): First of all, let me brief the members of the Security Council on the efforts that the Committee has made during the past two years towards full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). I am pleased to note today that considerable progress has been made in this regard. But more effort is needed in the next period to achieve full implementation of all aspects of the resolution.

As of today, 140 States have submitted their first reports and about 90 have submitted additional information. More reports are expected in the next few days. The number of non-reporting States is coming down from the low fifties, as more States in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific Islands region respond to our intensive outreach activities and to the most recent round of correspondence.

As will be spelled out later, the efforts of the Committee and its experts are now making a difference in coping with the challenges often mentioned by a number of those States to explain delays in their reporting, especially the complexity of the provisions of the resolution and the lack of capacity in many States to respond to the multiplicity of reporting requests by United Nations bodies.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Committee have, at regional group meetings in New York, recently urged all Member States to respond urgently to the Committee's request for more information, and we are hopeful that there will be positive results by mid-January at the latest, to facilitate the preparation of the second biennial report to the Security Council on the implementation of the resolution, which is due by the end of April 2008.

The Committee has relied heavily on outreach activities to encourage further reporting and promote full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). Through seminars, workshops and tailored dialogue, it has generated greater awareness about the process and the necessity of reporting, has fostered the sharing of relevant national experiences and has created more understanding of the requirements for assistance. A thematic discussion on outreach activities held last October recognized the need for a phased approach and recommended that future outreach activities focus less on the issue of reporting and more on assisting States with issues of implementation.

Based on observations from our outreach activities and interaction with Member States, the Committee concluded that for the full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), it is important for many States to receive relevant assistance. For the Committee to perform its clearing house function effectively, it is necessary for assistance requests to be specific. For this purpose, the Committee has prepared a template, which is currently being sent to all States. Matching requests for and offers of assistance is

essential and the Committee will utilize its website as a tool for that purpose.

Finally, I would like to say a few words about cooperation with other entities. The importance of cooperation with relevant international organizations was given special attention when the Security Council devoted an open meeting last February to the issue of non-proliferation (see S/PV.5635), at which States, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the World Customs Organization explored modalities for cooperation, which resulted in arrangements for practical cooperation.

Under the common strategy arrangement, the Committee and its experts are broadening their cooperation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities, and their respective experts.

The Committee has also intensified its contacts with other intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations and multilateral arrangements with the potential to contribute to implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) through their programmes and expertise, in conformity with the mandate of the Committee.

Last but not least, the Committee, in cooperation with the Office for Disarmament Affairs, organized a meeting in July 2007, with the participation of several non-governmental organizations engaged in activities supporting the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), in order to discuss issues of cooperation, interaction and possible harmonization of outreach activities and existing programmes. I believe that these contacts and this dialogue should be further expanded, reaching out to parliamentarians and the private sector as well.

In conclusion, let me share with the Council some personal observations and suggestions for the way forward in the Committee's work.

First of all, it is important to underline that implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) is a long-term process and requires sustained effort and an imaginative approach. The positive momentum that has now been created by the intensified work of the Committee should be utilized for creating a truly global and effective system of prevention of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-State actors.

The broadest degree of international cooperation and interaction among States, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other entities, including the private sector, is needed to achieve the goals of resolution 1540 (2004). There is a need to strengthen the synergy and complementarity of action of various international bodies in the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). The United Nations, and the 1540 Committee, in particular, can contribute to bringing various players together to harmonize or coordinate, as appropriate, their activities to this end.

The Council's open debate with intergovernmental organizations in February to discuss cooperation in the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) was the right step in this direction. In my view, this practice should continue regularly and the participation of intergovernmental and international organizations or multilateral arrangements relevant to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) could be further expanded.

We need to build on what has been achieved so far and expand the practical cooperation with intergovernmental organizations such as the IAEA, OPCW, WCO and others. It will be important to address some objective and subjective obstacles for even greater interaction. The role of regional and subregional organizations like the EU, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the OAS, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the African Union, the League of Arab States, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the South American Common Market (MERCOSUR) and others in raising awareness of the importance of and supporting the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in their respective regions should be further strengthened.

Regional organizations can facilitate the sharing of good national practices and lessons learned from national implementation between the countries of the regions and can develop frameworks of regional cooperation between the regional experts and institutions dealing with different aspects of resolution 1540 (2004).

The proactive engagement of the 1540 Committee with those organizations should become one of its outreach priorities in the near future. The Committee

could also explore the possibilities of furthering cooperation with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), using the positive momentum and interest of NGOs in closer interaction with the Committee that was expressed during the meeting in July. The NGOs proved to have valuable expertise and potential in supporting the work of the 1540 Committee in various regions through organizing tailored workshops aimed at facilitating national implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

Last but not least, engagement with parliamentarians and the private sector should also be intensified to help educate legislators and business people on the importance of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) for national security and international trade and to win their interest and support for these issues.

In the practical work of the Committee, the main focus should shift away from reporting to implementation of all aspects of resolution 1540 (2004). In this regard, tailored outreach and assistance that is responsive to regional and other specific circumstances could help Member States cope with the challenges of implementation. As the Committee stated in its work programme, national plans or road maps for implementation can serve States as useful planning tools, and this idea should be promoted further. Interested countries should receive more assistance in developing their national action plans.

The Committee's clearing-house function should be further developed using the assistance template as a tool. In this regard, the Committee should finalize the discussion on how its web site can be better used to facilitate the initial contacts between assistance providers and countries requesting assistance and how it can help the flow of information when assistance is requested and when assistance is offered. To enable more active assistance of experts to individual countries, the possibility of a trust fund for country visits by experts should be considered.

I believe the mandate of the Committee should be extended and the continuity of the Expert Group preserved without preventing gradual rotation.

Finally, let me thank the members of the Committee and the experts for their outstanding work.

Let me now turn to Slovakia's experience in chairing the Security Council Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions over the past 12 months.

I took over the chairmanship of the Working Group from Ambassador Kenzo Oshima of Japan at an important period — after the Working Group was revitalized in 2006 and after, as part of the revitalization process, the Council decided that the Working Group should be chaired by a single Ambassador for a extended period instead of the previous ineffective system of rotating chairmanship to coincide with the monthly presidency of the Council. In January 2007 the Council decided to continue and standardize that new practice, which has proven very useful and effective, with my appointment as Chairman for the whole year.

Under the able Japanese chairmanship last year, the Working Group's intensive efforts materialized in a substantive outcome — that is, a note by the President of the Security Council, in document S/2006/507. In this context, our priorities for the year 2007 have been promoting the full implementation of the note and tackling a range of other practical issues pertaining to documentation and procedures that have arisen from everyday work of the Council or that have been referred to the Working Group.

All members of the Security Council have been actively engaged in those efforts and have repeatedly committed themselves to implementing all agreed measures contained in the note.

I would like to use this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to all members of the Security Council for their active and constructive approach. As a result, good progress has been achieved. However, I see this as work in progress, and I believe that further progress could and should be achieved in a number of areas. The Security Council and the Working Group need to continue exploring ways to facilitate even better implementation of all agreed measures in the area of documentation and procedures.

I would like to highlight five of the agreed measures contained in the note that the Working Group has been most engaged with in the earlier part of this year: first, written reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the Council; second, statements by Council members and oral briefings provided by members of the Secretariat; third, preparation of the so-called areas of focus for informal consultations; fourth, the planning of subsidiary bodies' meetings; and fifth, Arria formula meetings.

As for practical documentation and procedural questions, the Working Group has tackled seven in particular: first, the participation of representatives of the Secretariat and members of individual Council delegations in formal closed consultations of the whole; second, the circulation of documents and information to Council members; third, the allocation of conference and translation services needed for everyday Council work; fourth, the formats of Security Council meetings; fifth, the Security Council annual report to the General Assembly; sixth, the Security Council's interaction and dialogue with other United Nations bodies, the Secretariat and other Member States; and seventh, matters of which the Council is seized and the so-called rolling agenda of the Council.

An important part of our work this year was close cooperation and interaction with the Secretariat, whose role is essential. That is why, in my capacity as Chairman of the Working Group, I met several times with the Chef de Cabinet of the Secretary-General and the Under-Secretaries-General for Political Affairs and for Peacekeeping Operations. Those meetings were extremely useful, and I believe they have contributed positively to the clarification of some open issues and to ensuring full implementation of all agreed measures in the area of documentation and procedures on the part of the Secretariat.

I would like to conclude by providing a few recommendations for the future work of the Working Group based on this year's experience. Slovakia believes that in the future, primary focus could be on the following four areas. First, efforts aimed at enhancing transparency and openness of the work of the Security Council, including the work of its subsidiary bodies should continue. Second, interaction and dialogue between the Security Council and other Member States, in particular those directly concerned and affected, should be enhanced and widened. Thirdly, Security Council private meetings with troop-contributing countries should be revitalized. Fourthly, efforts aimed at ensuring maximum relevance of the Security Council's annual report to the General Assembly should be continued.

Finally, let me turn to the work of the Security Council Ad Hoc Committee on Mandate Review. I have served as one of its Co-Chairs since May 2006. That year, my fellow Co-Chair was Ambassador Bolton, former Permanent Representative of the United States, and this year my Co-Chair has been Ambassador Kumalo, Permanent Representative of South Africa. I would like to take this opportunity to express my most sincere gratitude to both Permanent Representatives and to their delegations for their effective cooperation in fulfilling this important task.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Mandate Review was established in May 2006 with the aim of conducting the review of Security Council mandates called for by the heads of State and Government in the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document (A/60/1) and to continue consideration of the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report of March 2006 entitled "Mandating and delivering: analysis and recommendations to facilitate the review of mandates" (A/60/733).

In its work, the Ad Hoc Committee has been guided by the overall purpose of streamlining and strengthening the Security Council's efforts in promoting international peace and security, and thereby contributing to the effectiveness of the United Nations as a whole. The Committee has facilitated a practical, real-world review of the Security Council's existing mandates. It has been proceeding in close cooperation and coordination with the United Nations Secretariat, which has been providing invaluable assistance to the Committee. In this regard, I would especially like to express our appreciation to representatives of the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

The main objective of the mandate review exercise in the Security Council has been to assess and streamline its work in the areas that have, for various reasons, not been regularly on the Council's agenda or at the centre of its attention. The mandate review process has provided the Council with a truly unique and worthwhile opportunity to look at its own work and mandates from a different — meaning wider, more systematic and more holistic — perspective as opposed to the traditional approach of dealing with individual situations or mandates with a fairly narrow or limited view.

The mandate review process in the Security Council has been complementary to the Council's existing periodic review of activities and individual mandates. It has been comprehensive, placing mandates in their broader context, including, if appropriate, on a regional or functional basis, so as to better ascertain how individual mandates contribute to

the Council's overall objectives. The Committee's main role has been to facilitate the decision-making processes of the Security Council on individual mandates and to provide recommendations and guidance, but not to make any decisions on individual mandates.

Initially, the process was shaped in two phases. In the first phase, from May to December 2006, we looked mostly at mandates older than five years that were not periodically renewed and a few other issues. In the second phase, that of this year, we have also addressed issues that required longer, in-depth consideration, such as reporting cycles for individual situations and mandates, wider regional or subregional approaches, thematic mandates and a mandate registry prepared by the Secretariat in 2005.

In the course of its approximately 20 months of work so far, the Committee has utilized a range of useful tools and mechanisms, including informal meetings of territorial expert groups, Committee meetings held at the ambassadorial level, update briefings provided to the Committee by members of the Secretariat on mandates older than five years and not periodically renewed and an open meeting of the Committee on the mandate of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region of Africa. These tools and mechanisms have facilitated meaningful and effective work of the Committee.

In order to exchange views and compare notes about the mandate review processes in the Security Council and the General Assembly, the Co-Chairs of the Committee met several times with the Co-Chairs of the mandate review process in the General Assembly. While agreeing that each organ should concentrate on reviewing its own mandates, these meetings proved to be very useful. Our latest such meeting was held on 10 December with the new Co-Chairs for mandate review in the General Assembly, the representatives of Namibia and New Zealand.

I believe the outcomes and conclusions of the mandate review process of the Security Council could be very briefly characterized as follows: first, the Council, in an appropriate format, should continue receiving update briefings from the Secretariat on mandates older than five years and not periodically renewed. Secondly, the Council should continue considering, on a regular basis, appropriate reporting cycles for individual situations on its agenda. Thirdly, the mandate registry prepared by the Secretariat in 2005 is a very useful tool which should be updated and maintained in a joint effort of all relevant branches of the United Nations Secretariat. Fourthly, when appropriate, the Council should continue examining ways and means of streamlining and systematizing its mandating work, including through taking wider regional or subregional approaches to mandates. Lastly, when appropriate, the Council should continue its interaction and dialogue with other relevant United Nations organs on the issue of mandate review, including in addressing potential areas of overlap or duplication.

I would like to conclude by saying that it is our belief that the Security Council Ad Hoc Committee on Mandate Review has reached the main goals for which it was established. However, the issue of mandate review remains very valid and relevant for the Council, even though it reviews and renews most of its mandates periodically. The added value of mandate review and of the Council's recent positive experience with it lies mainly in the area of streamlining and systematizing the Council's work, taking wider regional or subregional approaches and addressing potential overlap or duplication. In this context, I would like to recommend that the Council, in its new composition next year, find an adequate mechanism to make best use of the lessons learned so far and to keep this important instrument in its tool box.

Mr. Voto-Bernales (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the close of Peru's mandate in the Security Council during this biennium, I have also come to the end of my functions as the Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1533 (2004) concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and of the Working Group established pursuant to resolution 1566 (2004) on two initiatives in the fight against terrorism. The comments I am about to make, I make under my sole responsibility, and are not attributable to any other delegation, nor should those be seen in any way as a record of the work of these subsidiary organs.

The measures established and progressively adapted by the Security Council in resolutions 1493 (2003), 1596 (2005), 1698 (2006) and 1771 (2007), in general terms aim at preventing all Congolese or foreign armed militias or groups operating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, particularly in the

east, from being supplied with arms and/or participating in military activities. To that end, the Committee established a list of persons and entities which have infringed on these measures, including individuals involved in the financing of these illicit acts, in particular in the trafficking of natural resources. Since July 2006, that list also includes those individuals who have recruited children or committed grave offences against children in situations of conflict.

Peru feels that those measures have been established in order to support the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo; to halt the spiral of violence; to ensure the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of these groups and militias; to encourage the process of the integration of the armed forces and police of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as reform of the Security sector; and to contribute towards the protection of children victims of conflict.

We must acknowledge that it was not possible to make substantive progress in the monitoring of the arms embargo, nor in controlling the financing of the illicit trafficking in arms through the exploitation, trade and illegal transfer of natural resources, nor in the monitoring of the travel ban of the individuals on the list.

As reflected in the report submitted by the Group of Experts that assisted the Committee in its tasks, the measures appear to be of limited effectiveness in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in neighbouring countries. One must bear in mind that it is all the more difficult to distinguish between legal and illegal flows of arms or natural resources when the principal protagonists are non-State actors, when conflict is rife in border areas and when monitoring efforts must cover a territory as vast and porous as that of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The ability to monitor those measures is increased when there is cooperation with States that have the ability to control the movements of individuals and the circulation of valuable primary materials or with States that are able to monitor consignments to the Democratic Republic of the Congo with all the necessary details.

In view of this situation, the chairmanship of the Committee focused its work on two aspects – as a facilitator seeking to promote cooperation between those States directly concerned in implementing the measures and in their support of the Group of Experts, and as a catalyst seeking to forge the consensus that is crucial for the work of the Committee.

This was a period during which the Security Council and the principal national, regional and international actors joined efforts to help establish an elective and effective Government within the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This convergence of aims has been the greatest strength of the Committee in its dialogue with the Democratic Republic of the Congo and also in its dialogue with Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi and also with States outside of the region. Thus, the Committee has witnessed the improved cooperation of border countries with the Group of Experts over the two-year period.

In turn, this convergence enabled the Committee to include a number of individuals and entities subject to the Council's measures, which has meant that the number of tasks linked to the list has increased. On this point I wish to note that we welcome the agreement reached within the Committee to facilitate the transfer of listed and charged individuals to the International Criminal Court in The Hague. This may have been the Committee's greatest contribution to the fight against impunity in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and towards strengthening international criminal justice, in cooperation with the Congolese authorities.

With regard to the activities of the Committee, the key concern of the chairmanship has been to provide follow-up to the reports and recommendations issued by the Group of Experts and my delegation has encouraged ongoing contacts and exchanges of ideas with the Group of Experts. We hope that the new Group of Experts — which is to submit its report on 15 January 2008 — will continue to effectively contribute towards the work of the Committee. In turn and in line with the decision taken by the Security Council, the Committee discussed how to make use of cooperation with the International Criminal Police Organization, including through the participation of its representative to the United Nations. Consideration of measures in that regard remains pending.

In addition, we address the recommendations of the informal Working Group on General Issues of Sanctions contained in resolution 1732 (2006), in particular those sanctions that could be immediately implemented. I also wish to recommend the ongoing consideration of this issue.

One year following the elections and a number of months after the establishment of the Government of the third republic in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, two processes must find an appropriate and convergent solution. On the one hand, there is the need to support the elected authorities in exercising their functions in terms of internal order, the protection of their people and State security and exercising control over their natural wealth. On the other hand, there is the persistence of national and foreign illegal armed groups who receive arms supplies and financing for their activities, attack civilian populations, disregard State authority — as is unfortunately the case in the Kivus — and cause regional destabilization.

Security Council resolution 1771 (2007) contains the first expansion of the exemptions to the measures adopted by the Council between 2003 and 2006; it is likely that this adaptation will continue. My delegation is of the view that this post-transition process should continue; it is crucial for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region and for the stability of the continent. It should also continue to be guided by the shared and unanimous vision of the Council, of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and of the countries concerned.

To conclude, I would like to thank the Security Council Subsidiary Organs Branch, led by Mr. Aleksandar Martinovic. In particular, I would like to thank Loraine Rickard-Martin, David Biggs and Francesca Jannotti-Pecci for their invaluable and unwavering support over these past two years. I also wish to convey my gratitude to delegations for their constructive cooperation with the chairmanship and to Counsellor Vitaliano Gallardo of the Peruvian Mission for his daily participation and involvement in the work of the Committee.

Allow me now to turn to the work of the Working Group established pursuant to resolution 1566 (2004) to consider and submit recommendations to the Council on practical measures to be imposed upon individuals, groups or entities involved in or associated with terrorist activities, other than those designated by the Al-Qaida/Taliban Sanctions Committee, and to consider the possibility of establishing an international fund to compensate victims of terrorist acts and their families through voluntary contributions. At the Working Group meeting held in April 2006, it was ascertained that the conclusions contained in the report under the previous chairmanship — held by the Permanent Representative of the Philippines — had not changed and that therefore the circumstances did not allow for substantive progress in those two areas.

In keeping with the general views of the Group, the Chair decided to continue to address these issues through bilateral contacts and in particular to continue the process which had led to the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (General Assembly resolution 60/288) to the extent that this framework could contribute elements relevant to the goals of the Working Group mandate. As we know, the rights of victims and possible compensatory mechanisms are elements contained in the Strategy, and the Counter-Terrorism Task Force is working in this area. We believe that the Security Council should take these elements into account when it continues to addresses this issue.

With regard to the adoption, by the United Nations of a list of terrorist entities and individuals in addition to the existing list on Al-Qaida and the Taliban, this would require reconciling the differing viewpoints held by Member States.

I would like to conclude by thanking delegations for their contributions and the Security Council Subsidiary Organs Branch for its assistance. I wish also to take this opportunity to thank the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate for its support for our work as Chair of Subcommittee A of the Counter-Terrorism Committee. Finally I would like to thank First Secretary Yella Zanelli, protocol of the Peruvian Mission, who was intensely involved in both areas.

The President: I thank Ambassador Voto-Bernales for his briefing.

On behalf of the Security Council, I would like to take this opportunity to express appreciation to the five outgoing Chairmen — Mr. Okio, Ambassador Christian, Ambassador Voto-Bernales, Ambassador Al-Nasser and Ambassador Burian — for the manner in which they have discharged their important responsibilities on behalf of the Council.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 4.05 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.5807

Security Council

Sixty-second year

Provisional

5807th meeting

Tuesday, 18 December 2007, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Mantovani	(Italy)
Members:	Belgium	Mr. Verbeke
	China	Mr. Li Junhua
	Congo	Mr. Okio
	France	Mr. De Rivière
	Ghana	Mr. Christian
	Indonesia	Mr. Natalegawa
	Panama	Mr. Arias
	Peru	Mr. Pérez
	Qatar	Mr. T. Al-Ansari
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Slovakia	Mr. Burian
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir John Sawers
	United States of America	Mr. Khalilzad

Agenda

Non-proliferation

Briefing by the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

07-64858 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Non-proliferation

Briefing by the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006)

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

At this meeting, we will hear a briefing by Ambassador Johan Verbeke, Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006), to whom I give the floor.

Mr. Verbeke (Belgium): This is my fourth 90-day report to the Security Council, which I am delivering in accordance with paragraph 18 of resolution 1737 (2006). The report covers the period from 20 September to 18 December this year.

During the reporting period, the Committee held no sessions of informal consultations, but carried out its work outside the meeting room. As members will recall, paragraph 15 of resolution 1737 (2006) concerns notifications by relevant States to the Committee of the intention to make or receive payments, or to authorize the unfreezing of funds, in connection with contracts entered into prior to the listing of persons and entities in the annexes to resolutions 1737 (2006) and 1747 (2007), as subject to the assets freeze. During the reporting period, the Committee received eight such notifications.

In paragraph 19 of resolution 1737 (2006), the Security Council decided that all States would report to the Committee within 60 days of the adoption of the resolution on the steps they had taken with a view to implementing effectively paragraphs 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12 and 17 of the resolution. In paragraph 8 of resolution 1747 (2007), the Council called upon all States to report to the Committee within 60 days of the adoption of the resolution on the steps they had taken with a view to implementing effectively paragraphs 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7 of that resolution.

Since I last briefed the Council, the Committee has received two additional reports under resolution 1737 (2006) and five additional combined reports under both resolutions 1737 (2006) and 1747 (2007). That brings the total number of reports under resolution 1737 (2006) to 87 and the total number of reports under resolution 1747 (2007) to 71. All States that submitted reports assured the Committee of their commitment to implementing resolutions 1737 (2006) and 1747 (2007) and to meeting their obligations as outlined therein.

Finally, the Committee received a communication dated 23 November from a Member State, forwarding for the information of the Committee a copy of a letter dated 21 November, which the same Member State sent to the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, transmitting, on behalf of a group of nuclear supplier countries, a list of items, end-users and procurement agents for which those countries, in their national capacity, had denied nuclear-related exports to Iran.

In conclusion, as Chairman, I would like to thank the five outgoing members of the Committee for their cooperation.

The President: I thank Ambassador Verbeke for his briefing.

Mr. Khalilzad (United States of America): The United States thanks Mr. Verbeke for his report on the recent activities of the Iran sanctions Committee. He leads the Committee with distinction, and we are grateful for his service.

The 90-day report makes clear that Iran is not complying with its Security Council obligations. That is an issue of fundamental importance to the Council, and we must remain seized of the matter until all concerns with Iran's nuclear programme have been addressed.

As Mr. ElBaradei, the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), has stated on three occasions since resolution 1747 (2007) was adopted in March, Iran has failed to comply with its obligations to suspend all proliferation-sensitive nuclear activity. Although very limited progress has been made on the Iran/IAEA workplan, Iran is still failing to cooperate fully and transparently with the IAEA in its investigation.

Iran must first suspend its proliferation-sensitive nuclear activities without delay, which would then allow negotiations within the framework of the Permanent Five (P-5) plus one, and, secondly, give IAEA its full cooperation in implementing the workplan.

The United States remains deeply troubled by Iran's non-compliance. The P-5 plus one continue their consultations in capitals, and we hope to have a text of a new draft resolution on sanctions before the full Council as soon as possible.

In closing, allow me to say a few words about the recent announcement by the Russian Federation on sending to Iran enriched uranium for use in the nuclear power plant being constructed at Bushehr. Resolution 1737 (2006), while prohibiting States from assisting Iran with sensitive elements of the nuclear fuel cycle, makes an exception for providing Iran with assistance and fuel for light water reactors such as Bushehr. As President Bush has noted, while he supports Russia's decision, Russia's arrangement to supply nuclear fuel for the entire period of Bushehr's operation demonstrates one thing: Iran does not need to pursue uranium enrichment and other sensitive aspects of the nuclear fuel cycle to have access to nuclear power.

We have joined Russia and other members of the P-5 plus one in offering Iran, if it complies with the requirements of the Council, cooperation in the development of a civil nuclear power programme. That includes active international support in building state-of-the-art light water power reactors and reliable access to nuclear fuel. If Iran is in fact serious about using nuclear power to meet its energy needs, the best way for it to proceed is to suspend its proliferation-sensitive nuclear activities and accept the P-5 plus one offer. We await Iran's answer.

Mr. Al-Ansari (Qatar) (*spoke in Arabic*): First of all, I would like to thank Mr. Verbeke for his briefing. Qatar attaches great importance to the peaceful resolution of the Iranian nuclear file, and we wish therefore to comment on the following regional considerations.

Qatar affirms that a peaceful resolution of the Iranian nuclear file is the ideal solution, as reaffirmed by the Gulf Cooperation Council, meeting in Doha. We reaffirm the full right of States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) to the peaceful use of nuclear energy under the relevant provisions of the Treaty. We reaffirm, therefore, the importance of the universality of the NPT and its implementation for all States in the Middle East, without selectivity or discrimination, and the importance of strengthening confidence and preventing the causes of proliferation, especially invisible proliferation.

Having become familiar with the IAEA report on Iranian nuclear activities, we welcome the August 2007 agreement on a workplan to address pending issues between Iran and IAEA regarding the IAEA safeguards regime. We believe that the report describes some factors that are encouraging for the plan's implementation regarding questions of importance to IAEA. We call on Iran to continue down the road of cooperation as set out in the report and to answer IAEA's questions, build confidence and resolve pending issues, in particular because the report agrees with IAEA statements that the results of the inspections and inventory accord with information presented by Iran and described in the report. Moreover, IAEA is waiting for answers from Iran regarding a number of pending issues. We hope that those questions will be dealt with in the near future.

Finally, we call upon all parties to adopt a policy of restraint and calm and not to attempt to influence the independence of the IAEA, in order to enable it to carry out its responsibilities.

The President: Before closing, I would like to congratulate Mr. Verbeke and to sincerely thank him for his briefing and for his effective leadership as the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006).

There are no other speakers on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 10.15 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.5808

Security Council

Sixty-second year

Provisional

5808th meeting

Tuesday, 18 December 2007, 4.25 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Mantovani	(Italy)
Members:	Belgium	Mr. Verbeke
	China	Mr. Li Kexin
	Congo	Mr. Okio
	France	Mr. Ripert
	Ghana	Mr. Christian
	Indonesia	Mr. Natalegawa
	Panama	Mr. Arias
	Peru	Mr. Gallardo
	Qatar	Mr. M. Al-Ansari
	Russian Federation	Mr. Shcherbak
	Slovakia	Mr. Burian
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir John Sawers
	United States of America	Mr. Khalilzad

Agenda

The situation concerning Iraq

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07-65065 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 4.25 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation concerning Iraq

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Iraq, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Al Bayati (Iraq) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Warren Sach, Assistant Secretary-General, Controller.

It is so decided.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2007/738, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by Slovakia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by Mr. Warren Sach, Assistant Secretary-General, Controller. I now give the floor to Mr. Sach.

Mr. Sach: Mr. President, as the Secretary-General's designated representative on the International Advisory and Monitoring Board (IAMB), I should like to thank you for the opportunity to brief the Council on the work of the Board.

The IAMB, as the audit oversight body for the Development Fund for Iraq (DFI), was established to fulfil the mandate set forth in Security Council resolution 1483 (2003). That mandate has subsequently been extended under resolutions 1546 (2004), 1637 (2005) and 1723 (2006).

The Development Fund for Iraq was also established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1483 (2003) and holds the proceeds of petroleum export sales from Iraq, as well as the transferred balances from the United Nations oil-for-food programme and other frozen Iraqi assets. From inception to 31 December 2006, the Board has been informed that about $70.4 billion has been deposited from the sale of oil and oil products. Another $10.2 billion has been deposited with DFI from the balance of the oil-for-food funds held under escrow by the United Nations, and a further $1.5 billion has been deposited as proceeds from frozen assets.

The Board helps to ensure that, first, the DFI is used in a transparent manner for the benefit of the people of Iraq and that, secondly, export sales of petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas from Iraq are made consistent with prevailing international market best practices.

The Board provides independent and international oversight of the operations of Iraqi oil export revenues and of the use of DFI resources. Thus, the Board functions as the audit oversight board for the DFI and has as its members representatives from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the International Monetary Fund, the Government of Iraq, the United Nations and the World Bank. The Board also involved the Iraqi Board of Supreme Audit in its work at an early stage to ensure continuity.

I now turn to the work of the Board. The Board has met 21 times since December 2003 and has approved the appointment by the Government of Iraq of independent public accountants as the external auditors. It has reviewed the periodic audit results and requested and approved special audits. The results of the Board's work are available on its website, *www.iamb.info*.

In terms of findings, the Board early on identified major issues in contracting practices and pointed towards the lack of oil metering as a key element with respect to the establishment of controls over oil revenues. The Board promoted the strengthening of

controls in Iraq over oil export revenues and their use and complemented the work of others, including the Board of Supreme Audit and the United States Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction.

The IAMB has identified significant control weaknesses related to oil revenues. These have already been reported in previous reports and briefings, and they included weak controls in place over Iraq's oil export revenues and the spending ministries. The major issues reported include, first, the absence of oil metering. The Board recommended that a comprehensive oil metering system be installed to achieve financial transparency and accountability. The Government of Iraq has since installed some meters at some oil terminals, including the Basra oil export terminal, as part of the project to establish a countrywide metering system for the flow of oil, gas and fuel products. Overall progress has been slow, and there is still no comprehensive metering at oil fields, storage facilities or refineries.

The second major issue is the use of barter transactions. Barter transactions of oil for electricity with a neighbouring country were recorded by the State Oil Marketing Organization (SOMO) but were not accounted for in the DFI as required by Security Council resolution 1483 (2003). While some reduction in bartering occurred in 2004 following the allocation of Iraqi budget funds to import light petroleum products, SOMO continues to undertake barter transactions.

Thirdly, there are inadequate controls over expenditures. The external audit reports received by the IAMB were critical of the financial and accounting controls put in place by the spending ministries, as well as the United States agencies using DFI funds. While the Board welcomed steps already taken by the Government of Iraq, it remains concerned about significant unresolved control deficiencies.

Fourthly, some of Iraq's oil resources were not accounted for in the DFI and were smuggled. Without a comprehensive oil metering system, it is difficult to control smuggling. The Board has welcomed a number of controls that have been put in place and has called for the Government of Iraq to enhance these measures to curtail smuggling.

Fifthly, the Board objected to certain contractual practices using DFI funds. A series of special audits, commissioned at the request of the Board, revealed a number of exceptions from normal procurement procedures.

Sixthly, subsequently, other audit reports, including those produced by the Board of Supreme Audit, the United States Government Accountability Office and the United States Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction, also pointed to similar weaknesses and confirmed the concerns expressed by the Board.

I now turn to the Committee of Financial Experts. The Iraqi Council of Ministers has established a Committee of Financial Experts to prepare for the time when the Board's functions will need to be undertaken solely by the Government of Iraq, upon the dissolution of the IAMB. The Committee has participated in the IAMB's activities and has worked alongside the Board to oversee the 2007 interim audit. The Committee has also participated in the two most recent meetings of the Board, held in June and November 2007.

With regard to the ongoing audits, the External Auditor is acting under the terms of reference agreed at the June 2007 meeting. Accordingly, it is anticipated that the Board will receive the results of the 2007 audit during the first half of 2008 and, at that time, will review the reports accordingly.

That completes my briefing. I will be happy to respond to any questions that members of the Council may have.

The President: I thank Mr. Sach for his briefing.

I shall now give the floor to members of the Council.

Mr. Shcherbak (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We wish to thank Assistant Secretary-General Sach for his briefing, which highlighted various aspects of the workings of the Development Fund for Iraq (DFI) and of the International Advisory and Monitoring Board (IAMB), of which he is a member. We believe that the briefing was extremely useful because of the transparency of the process. The Russian delegation supports the conclusions and recommendations presented by Mr. Sach, particularly with regard to improving the effectiveness of the verification process.

As for the briefing by the representative of the Secretary-General, we have some brief comments to make and one wish to express.

As members are aware, the Secretary-General, in accordance with a decision taken by the Security Council, must submit to the Council regular reports by his representative to the IAMB. We wish to recall that the last such document was received in June 2006. We note that the DFI and the IAMB were not officially established by the Security Council. Paragraph 12 of resolution 1483 (2003) states that the Council notes the establishment of the Fund and looks forward to the early meeting of the International Advisory and Monitoring Board. The Board, in turn, must facilitate the implementation of resolution 1483 (2003). It proceeds from that logic that United Nations Member States are entitled to receive reports about the activities of the financial structures facilitating the implementation of important Security Council decisions.

Now to our wish. During the discussions in preparing the resolution to extend the mandates of the multinational force, the DFI and the IAMB, a number of delegations referred to the possibility of organizing, in the near future, a briefing on DFI activities in Washington, at the headquarters of the International Monetary Fund, which currently chairs the Board. We believe that that sort of idea could be useful, particularly in terms of the transparency of the process. Such a briefing could be held for representatives of embassies of Security Council member States in Washington. Russia is interested in organizing such a meeting. If there are no objections from our Council colleagues, we wish to propose to Mr. Sach that he represent the United Nations in the IAMB and that he take the steps necessary to organize such a briefing at the beginning of next year.

The President: It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall now put the draft resolution to the vote.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Belgium, China, Congo, France, Ghana, Indonesia, Italy, Panama, Peru, Qatar, Russian Federation, Slovakia, South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1790 (2007).

I now give the floor to those Council members who wish to make statements following the voting.

Mr. Khalilzad (United States of America): The United States welcomes the adoption of this resolution to extend through 2008 the authorities for the multinational force — Iraq (MNF-I), the Development Fund for Iraq (DFI) and the International Advisory and Monitoring Board (IAMB).

During the past year, there have been significant and positive developments in Iraq. Iraqis should be proud of their efforts, which have resulted in decreased violence, improved essential services and greater engagement with the Middle East region and the world.

We are pleased that the Council has chosen today to support the request of the Government of Iraq to sustain that momentum and to extend those mandates. This vote complements the decision taken by the Council last August to expand the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq and the launching of the International Compact with Iraq last May in Sharm el-Sheikh. Together, those actions signal that the international community recognizes that what happens in Iraq has profound consequences for us all and that the Iraqis' striving to establish a stable, peaceful and prosperous democracy merits our continued support. They also signal the progress that the Iraqi people and Government have made on the path towards economic and security self-reliance. I call on the Iraqi leaders to make similar progress with regard to national reconciliation.

The Government of the United States is proud of its role in helping Iraq combat the challenges of terrorism and other violent acts besetting the country. We believe that the extension of these Council mandates is critical, as these authorities provide a framework for the international community to sustain its support for the people and the Government of Iraq as they work to consolidate and extend the gains made this year. In particular, this resolution will enable the MNF-I to continue to participate in the maintenance of security and stability in Iraq; it will enable the DFI to continue to ensure that the Government's revenues are used for the benefit of the Iraqi people; and it will enable the IAMB to continue to provide critical oversight, advisory and monitoring functions.

In conclusion, I should like to restate the commitment of the United States to work in collaboration with the Government of Iraq in order to help Iraq achieve the objectives that it has set for itself as an independent and sovereign State.

Sir John Sawers (United Kingdom): The resolution that we have adopted today is a unanimous response by the Security Council to a request from the Government of Iraq. The resolution recognizes the Iraqi request to retain the presence of the multinational force (MNF) in Iraq and extends for 12 months that force's mandate on the terms set out in resolution 1546 (2004), as well as the arrangements for the Development Fund for Iraq and the International Advisory and Monitoring Board. The resolution comes with the assurance that the Iraqi Government may, at any time, seek a review of the arrangements or, indeed, the termination of the MNF's mandate.

The United Kingdom will continue working in close partnership with the Iraqi Government, both bilaterally and as a contributor to the multinational forces.

On 16 December, last Sunday, security responsibility for Basra province passed from the MNF-I to Iraqi control. Basra was the last of the four southern provinces of Iraq previously under the security control of the United Kingdom-led Multinational Division South-East and the Iraqi authorities now have security responsibility and control in nine out of Iraq's 18 provinces.

Handing back lead responsibility for security in Basra to the Iraqi Government is not the end of the United Kingdom's involvement in Iraq or in the south. We are determined to fulfil our obligations and commitments to the Government and the people of Iraq. United Kingdom forces will continue to operate in an overwatch capacity, providing training, mentoring and advice into the future, retaining the capability to re-intervene in support of the Iraqi security forces, if required. We will take a decision in spring of next year on the next phase of our military presence.

As security continues to improve, we are continuing our efforts to promote effective economic governance in the south and are stepping up our work to support investment and business activity.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Iraq.

Mr. Al Bayati (Iraq): Mr. President, allow me at the outset to congratulate you for assuming the presidency of the Council for this month and to thank your predecessor, the Permanent Representative of Indonesia, for his successful presidency last month. I would also like to express my gratitude to the non-permanent members of the Security Council whose membership concludes at the end of this month, and to congratulate the new members of the Council, wishing them every success in their work in the Council.

It is an honour for me to address the Council on this historic day, as it adopts, upon the request of my Government, the resolution for the extension of the mandate of the multinational forces in Iraq for the last time.

The last few months have been a decisive test for the commitment and courage of the Government and the people of Iraq in their efforts to establish a stable democratic system in an exceptionally difficult environment. Iraq has completed the establishment of its constitutional and legal institutions and now possesses a permanent constitution, voted upon by the people of Iraq, a parliament representing all different social segments of society and a national unity Government consisting of all political parties.

The Government of Iraq has made enormous strides towards the day when a self-sustaining Iraqi security force would be able to provide security to the Iraqi people. While Iraqis remain grateful to all friendly countries that assisted in the liberation of Iraq from the previous tyrant and dictator, Saddam Hussein, no Iraqi Government official — indeed, no Iraqi citizen — wants the presence of foreign troops on Iraqi soil one day longer than they are needed. The presence of the multinational forces in Iraq today, and for the coming year, is essential to accomplish the mission they started when Iraq was liberated.

It is also necessary to mention here what was accomplished on 16 December 2007, namely, the handover of security responsibility to the Iraqi Government in Basra province, the second largest in Iraq and the ninth province to be handed over to the Iraqi Government by the multinational forces. This handover is a positive indication that the Iraqi forces are capable of assuming control over the important city of Basra.

I would like to concentrate on the main challenges facing Iraq. One such challenge is terrorism,

which is placing a heavy burden on the Government and the people of Iraq. The security plans carried out by the Iraqi army and the national security forces with the assistance of the multinational forces have contributed to surrounding the terrorists in isolated pockets in Iraq. The remnants of Al-Qaida along with their allies have suffered continued defeats, which is clearly reflected in a tangibly improved security situation in Iraq and a decline in the levels and number of terrorist activities, together with a reduction in the threat of civil war in the country.

We look forward to Iraq's playing an active role in achieving stability and security in the Middle East. Iraq aspires to become an arena where all parties can engage in dialogue rather than a region for settling issues. Towards that end, we initiated the neighbouring countries' meeting and hosted the American-Iranian dialogue in Baghdad.

The Government of Iraq has also signed a declaration of principles with the United States with a view to establishing a long-term cooperative and friendly relationship between the two countries. Establishing stability and security in Iraq reflects positively on the security and stability of the whole region and will contribute to the enhancement of international peace and stability.

The Government of Iraq continues its efforts to achieve national reconciliation, ensure expanded political participation of all national political forces, guarantee respect for human rights and the supremacy of law, achieve economic growth, and provide basic services for the Iraqi people. The Iraqi Government is working towards the adoption of ambitious plans to rebuild its economy on a sound and modern basis, which would enable the Iraqi economy to contribute effectively to the international economy.

Towards that end, the Iraqi Government, in partnership with the United Nations, is working to implement the initiative of the International Compact with Iraq, which is contributing to the enhancement and strengthening of national and international counter-obligations in the political and economic fields and in the areas of the rule of law, the promotion and protection of human rights and the establishment of democracy.

The continued efforts of the Iraqi Government have resulted in activating a national dialogue and reconciliation process and in disseminating tolerance, moderation and brotherhood. The Government also succeeded in preventing a sectarian war which had threatened the whole country. It has supervised a number of conferences to promote national reconciliation, including conferences of Iraqi tribes, political forces, civil society organizations, intellectuals and army officers, in addition to conferences held outside Iraq.

The Government has also sent delegations to meet with political figures and parties in several countries in the region. Among the main results of the national reconciliation process is the openness and cooperation with Iraqi tribes which has had a positive influence in eliminating terrorist organizations and in restoring Government control and the rule of law. The provincial support councils, which emerged from the national reconciliation process, are a pioneering exercise in combating terrorism and a reflection of the Government's strategy of not relying solely on the military option in the handling the security situation.

The Government also succeeded in recruiting 350,000 volunteers in the army and security forces in Iraq. It has also made progress in training and equipping those forces and has recruited 27,500 tribal members to combat Al-Qaida fighters. Members of a number of factions that have split from Al-Qaida in Baghdad and served other provinces and that have joined training centres total more than 14,178 individuals. The Iraqi Government has also reintegrated 73,622 officers and soldiers from previously dismantled ministries into different Iraqi ministries, in addition to reintegrating 21,893 officers and soldiers into the military services. It has also re-employed 2,586 members of the previous security institutions into the new Ministry of Interior.

It should also be mentioned that the joint efforts of the Iraqi and multinational forces over the last few months have resulted in the return of 6,000 displaced families to their homes. The joint efforts between the forces have also resulted in the killing and detention of the main leadership of Al-Qaida, the takeover of thousands of weapons and ammunition depots, the ending of sectarian killing and forced displacement all over Iraq, the reduction of violence in Baghdad and other provinces by more than 75 per cent, and the tracking down of militias and all other outlaws. In addition, the capacity and capability of the Iraqi army and police have increased with respect to numbers and equipment through the efforts of the Ministries of Interior and Defence.

Despite the apparent improvement in the security situation, we realize that Iraq needs still more time and

continued intensive efforts to enable our armed forces to take over the security responsibilities from the multinational forces in all of the country, as they continue to play a very important role in supporting and backing our troops in combating terrorism, militias and outlaws.

My Government, while reaffirming the importance of the role of the multinational forces, alongside our national forces, in contributing to the efforts to establish security and the rule of law, requests that the Security Council consider extending the mandate of the multinational force in the light of Iraq's achievements over the past few years, namely the strengthened capacity of its army and security forces and significant successes in the security, political and economic spheres. This progress calls for a review of the role and authority of the MNF in order to strike a balance between the need to extend the mandate of the force one last time and the progress made by Iraq in the area of security. It is also essential for the Iraqi Government to be treated as that of an independent and fully sovereign State.

My Government would also like to emphasize that it welcomes today's resolution on the understanding that the functions of recruiting, training, arming and equipping the Iraqi army and Iraq's security forces are the responsibility of the Iraqi Government. The Government would also assume responsibility for command and control of all Iraqi forces; the MNF, in coordination with the Iraqi Government, would provide support and backing to those forces. The Iraqi Government would also be responsible for arrest, detention and imprisonment tasks; when those tasks are carried out by the MNF, there will be maximum levels of coordination, cooperation and understanding with the Iraqi Government.

We welcome this resolution on the understanding that it is the final extension of the mandate of the MNF and expect that, in future, the Security Council will be able to deal with the situation in Iraq without the need for action under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. My Government also welcomes the reflection in the resolution of its request to include language reaffirming respect for the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Iraq and reaffirming further the importance of the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of Iraq.

We believe that the provisions of resolution 1546 (2004) on the deposit of proceeds into the Development Fund for Iraq (DFI) will help to ensure that proceeds from Iraq's natural resources are used to serve the interests of the Iraqi people. The role played by the International Advisory and Monitoring Board serves the same purpose. We recognize that the DFI plays an important role in helping Iraq to convince donors and creditors that it is managing its resources and debts in a reasonable way, in the interest of the Iraqi people. Towards that end, the Government of Iraq has requested the Security Council to continue to apply the provisions of paragraph 22 of resolution 1483 (2003) until 31 December 2008, including in respect of the funds, financial assets, and economic resources described in paragraph 23 of resolution 1483 (2003).

Before concluding, I would like to stress that for Iraq to achieve its goals, development programmes and reconstruction, Iraq must be capable of advancing itself; it should release itself from the legacy of the former regime and be liberated from its financial burdens. Iraq is still suffering from the heavy burden of compensation for the invasion of Kuwait by the Saddam regime, and it remains in need of the support of the international community and donor countries. Iraq has paid large sums, which add up to more than $22 billion — and it continues to pay.

In this regard, I would like to highlight the letter of the Prime Minister annexed to the resolution, in which he requested the Security Council to review its resolutions relating to the deposit of 5 per cent of Iraq's proceeds from oil into the Compensation Fund with a view to reducing that percentage as much as possible. The deposit of such a high percentage creates a financial burden for the Iraqi people at a time when it is in dire need of those funds to rebuild its infrastructure. Furthermore, the increase in oil prices means that the real amount represented by that 5 per cent is at least five times what it was.

Finally, allow me to express our gratitude and appreciation to all members of the Security Council, to the United Nations and to all friendly and brotherly countries who have assisted the Government and the people of Iraq in ending long decades of dictatorship and injustice and in building a democratic, federal and prosperous Iraq in which generations will enjoy the fruits of security, stability and prosperity.

The President: There are no further speakers inscribed on my list. Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.5809

Security Council

Sixty-second year

Provisional

5809th meeting

Wednesday, 19 December 2007, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Spatafora	(Italy)
Members:	Belgium	Mr. Verbeke
	China	Mr. Wang Guangya
	Congo	Mr. Okio
	France	Mr. Ripert
	Ghana	Mr. Christian
	Indonesia	Mr. Natalegawa
	Panama	Mr. Suescum
	Peru	Mr. Voto-Bernales
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Qahtani
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	Slovakia	Mr. Burian
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir John Sawers
	United States of America	Mr. Khalilzad

Agenda

The situation in Burundi

Second report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (S/2007/682)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

07-65263 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Burundi

Second report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (S/2007/682)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Burundi, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Nkurabagaya (Burundi) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2007/682, which contains the second report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi. Members also have before them document S/2007/740, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Belgium, China, Congo, France, Ghana, Indonesia, Italy, Panama, Peru, Qatar, Russian Federation, Slovakia, South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

The President: The draft resolution received 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1791 (2007).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 10.15 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.5810

Security Council

Sixty-second year

Provisional

5810th meeting

Wednesday, 19 December 2007, 10.15 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Spatafora	(Italy)
Members:	Belgium	Mr. Verbeke
	China	Mr. Wang Guangya
	Congo	Mr. Okio
	France	Mr. Ripert
	Ghana	Mr. Christian
	Indonesia	Mr. Natalegawa
	Panama	Mr. Suescum
	Peru	Mr. Voto-Bernales
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Qahtani
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	Slovakia	Mr. Burian
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir John Sawers
	United States of America	Mr. Khalilzad

Agenda

The situation in Liberia

Letter dated 5 December 2007 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2007/689)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

07-65275 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Liberia

Letter dated 5 December 2007 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2007/689)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Liberia, in which she requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mrs. Osode (Liberia) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2007/742, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2007/689, which contains the text of a letter dated 5 December 2007 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1521 (2003) concerning Liberia addressed to the President of the Security Council transmitting the report of the Panel of Experts on Liberia.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Belgium, China, Congo, France, Ghana, Indonesia, Italy, Panama, Peru, Qatar, Russian Federation, Slovakia, South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

The President: The draft resolution received 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1792 (2007).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 10.20 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.5811

Security Council

Distr.: General
19 December 2007

Original: English

Official communiqué of the 5811th (closed) meeting of the Security Council

Held in private at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 19 December 2007, at 10.30 a.m.

In accordance with rule 55 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the following communiqué was issued through the Secretary-General in place of a verbatim record:

"At its 5811th meeting, held in private on 19 December 2007, the Security Council considered the item entitled 'Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998), 1239 (1999) and 1244 (1999)'.

"The President, with the consent of the Council, invited the representatives of Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine to participate in the consideration of the item without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

"In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, the President, with the consent of the Council, extended an invitation under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Fatmir Sejdiu.

"Members of the Council, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia and Mr. Sejdiu had an exchange of views."

07-65387 (E) 191207

United Nations S/PV.5812

Security Council

Sixty-second year

Provisional

5812th meeting

Wednesday, 19 December 2007, 4.15 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. D'Alema	(Italy)
Members:	Belgium	Mr. Verbeke
	China	Mr. Liu Zhenmin
	Congo	Mr. Okio
	France	Mr. Lacroix
	Ghana	Mr. Christian
	Indonesia	Mr. Suryo-di-Puro
	Panama	Mr. Suescum
	Peru	Ms. Tincopa
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Henzab
	Russian Federation	Mr. Safronkov
	Slovakia	Mr. Mlynár
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Johnston
	United States of America	Ms. Wolcott

Agenda

The situation in Somalia

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

07-65287 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 4.15 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Somalia

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Somalia, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Afrah (Somalia) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Following consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council welcomes the briefing it received on 17 December 2007 from the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, in which he made proposals on the political and security fronts and called on the international community to commit itself to a clear course of action. The Security Council looks forward to hearing more details on the proposals of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. The Security Council strongly supports the efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to work towards lasting peace and stability in Somalia.

"The Security Council reaffirms its respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and unity of Somalia.

"The Security Council welcomes the appointment of the new Prime Minister of Somalia and looks forward to the early establishment of an effective Government. The appointment of Nur Hassan Hussein offers a renewed opportunity to make further progress on dialogue and political reconciliation, on addressing the humanitarian crisis in Somalia and on implementing the outcomes of the National Reconciliation Congress, leading to a road map for the remainder of the transitional period and democratic elections in Somalia, as set out in the Transitional Federal Charter. The Security Council urges all Somali parties to reject violence and, with the support of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, to enter into a substantial dialogue aimed at achieving a full and all-inclusive national reconciliation.

"The Security Council also welcomes the briefing on 6 December 2007 by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, John Holmes, which included an account of his visit to Somalia. The Security Council expresses its deep concern at the deteriorating humanitarian situation, aggravated by the prevailing security conditions in Somalia, and emphasizes again the need for strengthened efforts to provide humanitarian relief assistance to Somalia. The Security Council demands that all parties in Somalia ensure unfettered access for all humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations, fulfil their responsibilities and obligations under international humanitarian law and take the necessary measures to protect civilians.

"The Security Council reiterates its strong support for the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), calls on all Somali parties to cooperate fully with it, urges again the international community to provide financial resources, personnel, equipment and services for the full deployment of AMISOM and repeats its request that the Secretary-General consult with the African Union Commission on what further support might be provided to AMISOM.

"The Security Council also reiterates its request that the Secretary-General develop the existing contingency plans for the possible deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation to succeed AMISOM, as set out in resolution 1772 (2007). The Security Council

requests the Secretary-General to report by 8 February 2008 on progress made in this regard."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2007/49.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 4.20 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.5813

Security Council

Sixty-second year

Provisional

5813rd meeting

Friday, 21 December 2007, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Spatafora	(Italy)
Members:	Belgium	Mr. Verbeke
	China	Mr. Liu Zhenmin
	Congo	Mr. Okio
	France	Mr. De Rivière
	Ghana	Mr. Christian
	Indonesia	Mr. Natalegawa
	Panama	Mr. Suescum
	Peru	Mr. Voto-Bernales
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Nasser
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Slovakia	Mr. Burian
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Johnston
	United States of America	Mr. DeLaurentis

Agenda

The situation in Sierra Leone

Fifth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (S/2007/704)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

07-65497 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Sierra Leone

Fifth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (S/2007/704)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council to invite that representative to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Pemagbi (Sierra Leone) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2007/748, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Members also have before them document S/2007/704, which contains the fifth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Belgium, China, Congo, France, Ghana, Indonesia, Italy, Panama, Peru, Qatar, Russian Federation, Slovakia, South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1793 (2007).

I now give the floor to the representative of Sierra Leone.

Mr. Pemagbi (Sierra Leone): Mr. President, I should first of all thank you and the other members of the Council for giving my delegation the opportunity to say a few words in connection with the final extension of the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL). Today's decision marks yet another important phase in the process of peacebuilding in Sierra Leone. It comes only nine days after the adoption by the Peacebuilding Commission of a Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework for Sierra Leone.

As UNIOSIL prepares its exit or completion strategy, we recall the departure of the Organization's operations under the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) exactly two years ago, after the successful completion of its peacekeeping mission. In the next several months, the Security Council is expected to authorize the establishment of yet another type of office in the country.

All these developments suggest at least two things. First, in spite of many seemingly insurmountable challenges, Sierra Leone has made and continues to make remarkable progress in the consolidation of peace after a devastating 11-year armed conflict. Secondly, the United Nations has not abandoned Sierra Leone, and it is thus prepared to adapt its post-conflict presence and mandate in response to the emerging situation in the country.

In this regard, we are grateful to the Security Council for responding positively to President Koroma's request for the extension of the presence of UNIOSIL as currently structured, and also to the recommendation of the Secretary-General for a new office to replace UNIOSIL at the end of September 2008. In his letter to the Secretary-General of 22 October 2007 (S/2007/659, annex), President Koroma acknowledged the important role that UNIOSIL has played during the past two years in the consolidation of peace in Sierra Leone. My delegation joins the Security

Council in commending what the Council rightly describes as the valuable contribution that the Office has made to Sierra Leone's recovery from conflict and to the country's peace, security and development.

We welcome the fact that the Council has emphasized the importance of UNIOSIL providing assistance to national commissions and institutions in fulfilling their respective responsibilities. We already have a relatively large number of such bodies for elections; the promotion of good governance and accountability; combating corruption; the promotion of human rights, including the rights of the child; and constitutional review. They should be seen in the context of national ownership. They are an integral part of the structure of peacebuilding and sustainable development.

Accordingly, there is an urgent need to support and strengthen them. We note with satisfaction that the Council has requested the Secretary-General to ensure that there is adequate capacity, expertise and resources within UNIOSIL to assist the various commissions and institutions.

Of course, the Government acknowledges that it bears primary responsibility for peacebuilding and long-term development in the country. We would therefore like to reiterate that the Government, bearing in mind the mandate it received in the recent national elections, is determined to intensify its effort to ensure that the people of Sierra Leone see and enjoy the dividends of peace within the shortest possible time. We continue to count on the support of the Peacebuilding Commission, the United Nations system and bilateral and multi-national partners in fulfilling this objective.

The President: There are no other speakers on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage .of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 10.20 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.5814

Security Council

Sixty-second year

Provisional

5814th meeting

Friday, 21 December 2007, 10.20 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Spatafora	(Italy)
Members:	Belgium	Mr. Verbeke
	China	Mr. Liu Zhenmin
	Congo	Mr. Okio
	France	Mr. De Rivière
	Ghana	Mr. Christian
	Indonesia	Mr. Natalegawa
	Panama	Mr. Suescum
	Peru	Mr. Voto-Bernales
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Nasser
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Slovakia	Mr. Burian
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Johnston
	United States of America	Mr. Khalilzad

Agenda

The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Twenty-fourth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2007/671)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

07-65503 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Twenty-fourth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2007/671)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Ileka (Democratic Republic of the Congo) took his seat at the Council table.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2007/752, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations. Members of the Council also have before them document S/2007/671, which contains the twenty-fourth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Belgium, China, Congo, France, Ghana, Indonesia, Italy, Panama, Peru, Qatar, Russian Federation, Slovakia, South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1794 (2007).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 10.25 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.5815

Security Council

Sixty-second year

Provisional

5815th meeting

Friday, 21 December 2007, 10.25 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Spatafora	(Italy)
Members:	Belgium	Mr. Verbeke
	China	Mr. Liu Zhenmin
	Congo	Mr. Okio
	France	Mr. Ripert
	Ghana	Mr. Christian
	Indonesia	Mr. Natalegawa
	Panama	Mr. Suescum
	Peru	Mr. Voto-Bernales
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Nasser
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Slovakia	Mr. Burian
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir John Sawers
	United States of America	Mr. Khalilzad

Agenda

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

07-65518 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question

The President: In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Ambassador Lynn Pascoe, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs.

It is so decided.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by Ambassador Lynn Pascoe, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs.

I invite Mr. Pascoe to take a seat at the Council table.

Mr. Pascoe: Since the Annapolis Conference, bilateral negotiations between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization have commenced. Strong, international engagement has been reflected in a landmark donors conference, a Quartet meeting and a meeting between the Quartet and members of the League of Arab States — all in Paris on 17 December.

At the same time, developments on the ground, including new settlement activity and ongoing violence, have been a cause of concern. The goal in the weeks and months ahead must be to generate real momentum on all aspects of the peace process.

On 17 December, the Secretary-General joined representatives of 68 States and international institutions at a donors conference in Paris, which was hosted by the French Government and was aimed at securing financial support to the Palestinian Authority over the next three years. Donors commended the Palestinian Reform and Development Plan presented by Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad and pledged a reported $7.4 billion in assistance to the Palestinian Authority.

We welcome the breadth and depth of donor support and we commend the efforts of all who were involved in making the donors' conference a success. As the Secretary-General stressed, the promise of Paris will only be realized if all partners — the Palestinian Authority itself, donors and the Government of Israel — now exert a common effort. Donors will need to follow through on pledges, as will the Palestinian Authority on implementing its reform agenda; Israel will need to ease significantly restrictions on movement and access. The four co-chairs — France, Norway, the European Commission and Quartet Representative Mr. Blair — have committed to following up on the conference.

On the same day as the Paris conference, the Quartet met and "reaffirmed the importance of Palestinian economic and institutional capacity-building in order to lay the foundation for a viable and prosperous Palestinian State in the West Bank and Gaza". (Press release SG/2134, 17 December 2007)

Expressing its strong support for the Palestinian Reform and Development Plan, the Quartet urged donors to resume direct bilateral assistance to the Palestinian Authority and endorsed a final extension of the Temporary International Mechanism until the end of March 2008. As I mentioned, the Quartet meeting was then followed by a quite productive meeting between the Quartet and members of the League of Arab States.

In addition to his role in the preparation of the donor conference, Quartet Representative Tony Blair is continuing his efforts to secure agreement on and implementation of joint projects between the Palestinian Authority and Israel, which are crucial to bringing about improvements on the ground.

I would like now to turn to the bilateral negotiations. Pursuant to the Annapolis joint understanding, Israeli-Palestinian negotiations formally began on 12 December, in a meeting of the joint steering committee headed by Israeli Foreign Minister Livni and Mr. Ahmed Qureia. The Quartet welcomed this development and reaffirmed its commitment to remain closely involved and to support the parties' efforts to conclude an agreement before the end of 2008.

Central to improving the situation on the ground and to building confidence to support bilateral negotiations, is action by the parties, in the words of

the Annapolis joint understanding, to immediately implement their respective obligations under the Road Map. In this respect, we note that on 4 December tenders were announced for the construction of 307 new housing units in the Israeli settlement of Har Homa. The Secretary-General reaffirmed the United Nations position on the illegality of settlements.

Members of the Council will recall that phase one of the Road Map requires the Government of Israel to freeze all settlement activity, including the so-called natural growth. The Secretary-General has received written protests from the chief negotiator of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the Secretary General of the League of Arab States and the Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia.

The Quartet expressed its concern over the tenders, calling on the parties to refrain from steps that undermine confidence and underscoring the importance of avoiding any actions that could prejudice the outcome of permanent status negotiations. We reiterate the call of the Quartet for both parties to make progress on their phase one Road Map obligations, including an Israeli freeze on settlements, removal of unauthorized outposts and opening of East Jerusalem institutions, as well as Palestinian steps to end violence, terrorism and incitement.

In this regard, following the November deployment of 300 additional security personnel in Nablus, the Palestinian Authority recently deployed some 500 armed police officers to the West Bank city of Tulkarem in an effort to seize unlicensed weapons and impose law and order. Tensions have risen between Palestinian security forces and armed militants — notably in Hebron, where the Governor's house was recently attacked. This underscores both the progress being made and the continuing challenges facing the Palestinian Authority in asserting its control in the West Bank.

There is a need for support to and reform of the Palestinian Authority security forces to ensure their effective performance. Continuing and enhanced security cooperation between Israel and the Palestinian security forces is also essential. According to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, obstacles to movement in the West Bank now stand at 563. Construction work on the barrier within occupied Palestinian territory, in deviation from the Green Line and in contravention of the International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion, continues.

The insecurity facing civilians on both sides of the conflict is underscored by figures over the reporting period: 37 Palestinians were killed and 71 injured by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), 2 Palestinians were killed and 21 injured in internal violence and 11 Israelis were injured by Palestinian militants.

The worst violence took place in or emanated from Gaza, from which 216 rockets and mortars were fired by Palestinian militants, either at crossings points or at Israel. We condemn these indiscriminate attacks, which endanger civilians in Israeli communities adjacent to the Gaza Strip. They have caused injuries and damage and disrupted the lives of thousands of Israelis. These attacks also threaten the safety of humanitarian workers at the crossings.

The IDF has conducted deadly raids into the Gaza Strip, targeting militants allegedly responsible for rocket attacks. Islamic Jihad has threatened to resume suicide attacks inside Israel. The Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit is spending his nineteenth month in captivity in Gaza. Israel continues to express concerns about alleged smuggling of weapons and materiel into Gaza. In these volatile circumstances, we continue to urge full respect by all parties for international humanitarian law.

The humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip remains of grave concern. The crossings into Gaza continue to be restricted for people and goods — though a number of Gazans were successful in leaving through the Rafah crossing to participate in the Hajj to Mecca. Only 13 basic categories of food and household items, medical supplies and some water sanitation equipment are being allowed into the Strip from Israel. Reductions in fuel announced on 28 October also continue.

Cash money is unable to enter into Gaza owing to restrictions on the import of dollars and other currencies, except for specified disbursements, such as the salaries of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the Palestinian Authority.

Exports from Gaza have virtually stopped since June. Members of the Council will recall that the November 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access,

designed to ensure a sustainable Gaza economy, set a target of 400 trucks per day exiting Gaza with exports. As a measure of the current situation, a total of 77 trucks have left Gaza through Kerem Shalom since June — 7 left in August with potatoes and 66 in December with flowers and strawberries. At least 14 Palestinians have died after permission to exit Gaza for medical treatment was denied or delayed. Without the resumption of the regular flow of imports and exports, Gaza's socio-economic and humanitarian conditions will continue to deteriorate.

I welcome Prime Minister Fayyad's stated willingness for the Palestinian Authority to man re-opened crossings, and call on all parties to take up this proposal with a sense of urgency and responsibility.

Turning to Lebanon, the presidential election continues to be the focus of negotiations among Lebanese political leaders. There appears to be agreement in principle on the candidature of General Michel Suleiman for the presidency. However, the parties remain deeply divided on the next steps to bring about the election of General Suleiman, who is currently serving as the Commander of the Lebanese Army. The Lebanese Constitution requires that two years lapse before a State official can be elected president — and of course that would have to be changed.

The opposition has stated that there must first be agreement on the composition of the new Government before the Parliament can meet to elect General Suleiman as President. The 14 March Coalition maintains that any such agreement should come after the election of the president. Despite several initiatives and efforts by various parties to break the deadlock, the Lebanese have yet to reach agreement on that issue. As a result, and since the last briefing of the Council, there have been further postponements to the parliamentary session to elect the new president. The next session is currently scheduled for 22 December.

The Secretary-General and his representatives in the region have been in close contact with Lebanese leaders, and more broadly with regional and international leaders, to try to find a solution to the prolonged political crisis. On 17 December, while in Paris for the Palestinian donor conference, the Secretary-General called a meeting on Lebanon attended by representatives of Egypt, France, Italy, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Spain, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States, the European Union, the European Commission and the European Council. The statement following that meeting reaffirmed strong and non-negotiable support for Lebanon and its people. It urged that Parliament be allowed to convene immediately to fulfil its constitutional duties and insisted that outside Powers act in compliance with the decisions of the Security Council and fully respect Lebanon's Constitution and democratic institutions.

The ongoing lack of agreement and the resultant constitutional void are matters of great concern. The current situation is dangerous and unsustainable. It is of fundamental importance for the Lebanese State that all Lebanese leaders seek a solution that enables presidential elections to take place immediately. That is all the more necessary given the continuing attacks on Lebanon's sovereignty and stability, most recently illustrated by the brutal assassination of General François el-Hajj of the Lebanese Armed Forces.

In South Lebanon, the situation has remained calm. However, an increased number of Israeli air violations were recorded at the end of November. As noted in last month's briefing, overflights are violations of resolution 1701 (2006), and also undermine the credibility of both the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and the Lebanese Armed Forces. In addition, the request for the Israel Defense Forces to provide technical strike data on cluster munitions is still pending.

The next few months are critical for the renewed peace process between Israel and the Palestinians. Solid progress will be essential in the bilateral negotiations. That, however, is unlikely to be achieved or to be sustainable without serious improvements on the ground. Donors must follow through on their commendable Paris commitments, and the parties must act to fulfil their responsibilities so that a new climate of confidence, security and physical mobility is established.

The Quartet envoys will continue to meet to take stock of the situation in the important period ahead, and the Quartet principals have agreed to meet regularly in 2008 to review progress and provide support for the parties' efforts. It will also be essential for the Quartet and Arab League partners to remain in close contact to support the bilateral process and to coordinate closely regarding the broader regional

dimensions of peace, bearing in mind the importance of the Arab peace initiative. The Secretary-General and the United Nations will continue to work for a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, based on Security Council resolutions.

The President: I thank Ambassador Pascoe for his briefing.

Expression of thanks to outgoing members of the Council

The President: As this may be the last meeting of the Security Council for December 2007, I would like, on behalf of the Council, to express the most sincere appreciation of the Council to the five outgoing members — the Congo, Ghana, Peru, Qatar and Slovakia. I know I speak on behalf of the Council when I commend those five members for their hard work and contributions during their 2006-2007 term on the Security Council.

I think that when members of a family leave the family, it is mainly a moment of sadness — a moment in which we acknowledge what the members have given to the family. As in any family, there are moments of discussion — "frank discussion", as we say in our language — but it is precisely through the possibility of having frank discussions and exchanges of view that we enrich ourselves and achieve results. It is through the efforts and points of view of everybody that we reach our goals. I feel that, along with the sadness, there is also a sense of the special bond that we have built among us all in this period. We will remember. I urge all my colleagues to take care.

In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 10.45 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.5816

Security Council

Sixty-second year

Provisional

5816th meeting

Thursday, 27 December 2007, 2 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Spatafora	(Italy)
Members:	Belgium	Mr. Verbeke
	China	Mr. Wang Guangya
	Congo	Mr. Okio
	France	Mr. Ripert
	Ghana	Mr. Christian
	Indonesia	Mr. Natalegawa
	Panama	Mr. Soler Torrijos
	Peru	Mr. Pereyra
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Nasser
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	Slovakia	Mr. Harmanovský
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. Pierce
	United States of America	Mr. Khalilzad

Agenda

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

07-66001 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 2 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Pakistan, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration of the item without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Amil (Pakistan) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

I warmly welcome the presence among us of the Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon.

After consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

> "The Security Council condemns in the strongest terms the terrorist suicide attack by extremists that occurred in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, on 27 December 2007, causing the death of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and numerous other casualties, and expresses its deep sympathy and condolences to the victims of this heinous act of terrorism and their families, and to the people and the Government of Pakistan. The Security Council pays tribute to former Prime Minister Bhutto.
>
> "The Security Council calls on all Pakistanis to exercise restraint and maintain stability in the country.
>
> "The Security Council underlines the need to bring perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of this reprehensible act of terrorism to justice, and urges all States, in accordance with their obligations under international law and resolution 1373 (2001) and consistent with resolution 1624 (2005), to cooperate actively with the Pakistani authorities in this regard.
>
> "The Security Council reaffirms that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed.
>
> "The Security Council further reaffirms the need to combat by all means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts. The Council reminds States that they must ensure that any measures taken to combat terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law.
>
> "The Security Council reiterates its determination to combat all forms of terrorism, in accordance with its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2007/50.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 2.10 p.m.